Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

ACC Ministers Prepare for Summit; Leaders Arrive

Ministers Arrive in Cairo

NC1406102089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, Jordanian prime minister; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic; Taha Yasain Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister; and their accompanying delegations arrived in Cairo this morning. They will take part in the ministerial meetings which will be held today to prepare for the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit which begins in Alexandria tomorrow, Thursday.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and a number of ministers received the visiting officials at the airport.

YAR Minister Makes Statement

JN1406184889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo at 1300 this afternoon to participate in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council's meetings. He was accorded an official welcome. [passage omitted]

Brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sdiqi went to the reception hall for a short rest during which brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani made a statement to various local and Egyptian media organs:

I feel great joy as I arrive in Cairo to attend the meeting of the ministerial council which preceeds the meeting of ACC Supreme Council. During this meeting, we will go over the final preparations for the draft agreements and resolutions which will be approved by the council's Supreme Council. These agreements and resolutions deal with organizing the work of the ACC and its various evaluations. We will also finalize the agreements and resolutions to organize joint action between the ACC countries in the fields of transportation, employment of the ACC citizens, air transportation, civil aviation, legal and judicial cooperation, and other issues, in addition to designating a secretary-general and setting up a program for the General Secretariat's course of action.

He expressed his great joy in holding this meeting in Egypt after the last emergency summit, in Egypt's return to the Arab League, and in the resumption of its distinguished Arab role. He said that this meeting represents a suitable opportunity for the ACC leaders to exchange their viewpoints over the new developments in the Arab and international arenas and discuss and coordinate everything that concerns the aspirations of the coming stage of the ACC's development.

The brother prime minister expressed his optimism over the resolutions that will result from this meeting and the hopes resulting from this round over the coming meeting to be held in Sanaa.

In his statement, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani pointed out that the brother heads of the ACC countries, will, during this meeting, direct the ministerial council and the other organs to prepare for the projects which strengthen relations between the ACC countries.

Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, left Sanaa this morning. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Premier Makes Statement

JN1406134489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir arrived in Cairo this morning heading an official delegation to participate in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] ministerial council's meeting which starts in Cairo this evening.

In a press statement he made upon arrival in Cairo, the prime minister affirmed the importance and scope of the new horizons opened by the ACC for joint Arab action. He pointed out that this action clearly opens the way for expanded economic and trade relations on the one hand, and cooperation in the educational and social fields on the other hand, in addition to continuing fruitful political coordination.

The prime minister pointed out the importance of serious efforts to render the work of this council and the fraternal councils in the Gulf and the Arab Maghreb a success, all of which aim to serve their people and the whole Arab nation. He clarified that we, in Jordan, look with great confidence to organizing Arab action in institutions which respond to the international changes, especially at a time when we must adapt to a united Europe in 1992 and the other regional groupings in the world.

He expressed his hope that the agreements and decisions which will be issued by the Supreme Council will form a strong bases for more joint Arab action whether in the fields of trade, transportation, or employment, in addition to all the other agreements and decisions dealing with legal and judicial cooperation. This also applies to cooperation between the foreign ministries and other such agreements and decisions which facilitate joint Arab action.

He added: I am very honored at the chance to meet with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. It is a pleasure for us to benefit from his long experience and known astuteness.

It is also an honor for me, accompanied by His Majesty King Husayn, to meet his brothers the Arab leaders: President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, President Saddam Husayn, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He said: I am confident, God willing, that these meetings will succeed. At the same time, I congratulate dear Egypt for the generous contributions it has made to joint Arab action under the umbrella of the Arab League.

Answering a question, the prime minister said: We will start with the directives of the leaders to prepare the working papers of the council. Some of these include choosing a secretary-general who will begin his work soon. He pointed out that the joint relations between the members have been organized within this grouping and will move from one success to another. He expressed his hope that the ACC will have higher yields for the citizens in these countries.

Answering a question on the ACC countries' position on the Palestine question and the Lebanese problem, the prime minister said: The ACC countries' position on the Palestine question is clear. We support the PLO in its positive policies; we support any decision it takes. As for the Lebanese crisis, he said: Our position is clear as seen in the Casablanca summit. He added: The council's goals are to have the Arab nation take one position and then cooperate closely with our brothers in the other councils.

The prime minister was officially received by a delegation headed by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and a number of officials.

Jordanian Receives Officials

JN1406172289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir received in his place of residence in Cairo this evening Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. The two sides held a meeting which was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

His excellency also received 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic. They also held a meeting which was attended by Al-Qasim and the Yemeni ambassador in Cairo.

During the two meetings, conferees discussed bilateral relations and reviewed preparations for the ministerial council's meetings which will be held this evening.

Egypt's Sidqi on Meetings

NC1406131189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1153 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed that the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] is a good step in the direction of augmenting coordination and cooperation among the fraternal Arab states within a framework of mutual respect and common interests.

Prime Minister Sidqi made this statement after receiving Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR]; and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, at Cairo Airport today. The Arab officials are in Egypt to take part in the meetings of the ACC ministerial council, which will begin later today. They will prepare the agenda of the ACC Supreme Council meetings, which will open tomorrow in Alexandria and will be attended by the leaders of the four member states. [passage omitted]

Dr Sidqi noted that the ACC—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the YAR—was established in order to enhance inter-Arab action within the framework of the Arab League. Egypt has been pleased to return to the Arab League and resume its activities within its agencies, he stated. He stressed in this connection that there is no conflict between the work of the regional councils and the Arab League, noting that these councils help the Arab League perform its duties more effectively.

Asked about future inter-Arab action, Dr Sidqi said the ACC Charter is clear regarding all the council's activities. He added that we look forward to achieving full coordination among the ACC members in the economic, political, and social fields, provided this is done in phases so as to take into consideration the capabilities of each member state, as stipulated in the ACC Charter.

Regarding developments in the Gulf, the prime minister expressed his belief that the picture in Iran will remain "unclear for a while" and this will reflect on the ongoing efforts to reach a settlement in the Gulf. He added that it will take some time for the picture in Iran to become clear. He added that this subject will be taken up during the current session of the ACC so that Iraq's views may be heard regarding these developments.

ACC Ministerial Council Meets

NC1406192589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The ministerial council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], which comprises the heads of the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, the Yemen Arab Republic, and Iraq, held a meeting this evening to make a final review of the topics to be submitted to the ACC Supreme Council, that is, the leaders of the four ACC member states.

The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the four countries and they were joined later by the members of the delegations.

The discussion during the meeting focused on the draft work regulations within the ACC, the headquarters agreement and its tasks, and the rules for concluding agreements and contracts among the member states. The conferees also discussed the work rules within the ACC General Secretariat, as well as a draft judicial agreement for unifying some laws and promoting judicial agreement in civil and criminal cases in the member states.

The draft judicial agreement gives the citizens of the ACC member states the right for litigation to demand and defend their rights before the judiciary in any ACC member state without any restrictions. The conferees also reviewed the agreement for the freedom of movement among the ACC countries.

Secretary-General Named

NC1406202489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—The ministerial council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] approved at its meeting in Cairo today the nomination of Dr Hilmi Nammar to the post of secretary-general of the ACC and Dr Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, former Iraqi finance minister, to the post of assistant secretary-general.

This was stated by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi following the meeting of the ministerial council today.

Summit To Begin 16 Jun

NC1406171989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—The leaders of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Jordanian monarch King Husayn, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic, will hold the first meeting of the ACC Supreme Council on Friday [16 June] in Alexandria.

King Husayn and Presidents 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn will arrive tomorrow morning at Cairo airport, where they will be met by President Mubarak, the heads of government of the member states, members of the delegations taking part in the meetings, and Dr Hilmi Nammar, ACC secretary-general nominee. [passage omitted]

A responsible source has told MENA that the agenda of the summit, which will open Friday, includes approving the nomination of the ACC secretary-general, the rules governing the council's procedures, and the privileges and immunity of General Secretariat employees. The agenda also includes such topics as nonintervention in the domestic affairs of the member states and abstention from the use of force, as well as other issues, such as freedom of movement within the ACC countries by their nationals and cooperation in the judicial, air, and land transport fields.

Mubarak To Address Opening Session

NC1506051789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will open the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit today in Alexandria. The ACC members include Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that the opening session, which will be held tonight, will be relayed live in all the four member countries. Mubarak will deliver the opening speech because Egypt is the host country. The session will then be adjourned to reconvene behind closed doors. [passage omitted]

ACC Leaders Arrive 15 Jun

NC1506095389 [Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0756 GMT on 15 June begins live relay from Cairo Airport to cover arrival of the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

At 0759 GMT, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's plane arrives and he is met and hugged at the ramp by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The Iraqi and Egyptian national anthems are then played. The two presidents inspect an honor guard, and the Iraqi president shakes hands with the welcoming crowd. Among those greeting him are the prime ministers of the four ACC nations, Egyptian Assistant President [title as heard] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, senior Egyptian Government officials and Army officers, and Arab and African diplomats. At 0809 GMT, Mubarak accompanies Saddam to the airport VIP lounge.

At 0818 GMT, the plane of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] arrives and is met by President Mubarak and accorded the same official welcome. Mubarak accompanies him to the VIP lounge at 0830 GMT.

At 0840 GMT, King Husayn of Jordan arrives, is met by Mubarak, and is accorded the same official welcome. No speeches or public statements are made.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Message to 'All Arab, Islamic Leaders'

JN1406163489 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Jun 89 p 20

["Text" of message from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to "all Arab and Islamic leaders, kings, and presidents" on 8 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.

From the bloody arenas of struggle on the land of Isra'; through the daily tribulation resulting from the Jewish brutality against our religion, messenger, sons, women, and old men; and out of our responsibility for leading our people to liberate the land of Isra', the first destination of the Muslims, and the land of messages, we appeal to you to exert your utmost and devote the information, financial, military, and political potentials that God has placed in your hands to serve our cause—the cause of all Arabs and Muslims—and to defend our wounds, pains, religion, holy places, and history. Palestine is our homeland; it is also the homeland of the Arabs and Muslims. Palestine is a trust on our conscience, on your conscience, and on the conscience of the Arab and Islamic nation. And God will ask everybody about Palestine on Judgment Day.

As we appreciate your feelings toward our people's struggle and blessed intifadah [uprising], we believe that the duty you shoulder toward this people and their intifadah is greater, particularly as we stand along the first frontier in defense of the Arabs and Muslims to confront the expansionist Jewish aggression aimed at establishing "the Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile" and imposing political and economic hegemony over the rest of the Arab and Islamic homeland.

We believe that God has given you an opportunity to reassert our nation's independence, unity, and solidarity. Our people are offering sacrifice after sacrifice to confront the Zionist enemy. Our people will not retreat from their objective despite the killing, wounding, detention, torture, and demolition of houses by the Zionist enemy, regardless of the number of widows and orphans, and despite the corruption the enemy sows and the weapons and deceptions it employs. Our people have sworn to struggle until the land of Isra' is liberated and restored to the Arab and Islamic fold.

On this historic occasion, we appeal to the determined men, the leaders who seek glory, loftiness, and strength for their nation; to the grandsons of 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab, al-Mu'tasim, and Salah al-Din to stand up with their armies and people as well as to mobilize all potentials to champion the people of jihad in Palestine.

The captive al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, all Palestine's mosques and minarets, every grain of sand in the land of Isra', every tree, and every living thing shout with a high voice: Join the jihad, join the jihad. All these are calling on you while facing the occupation, teaching the enemy lessons in heroism it has never seen before, and inflicting on it defeats which it believed would never be inflicted, thereby shaking the enemy bases and frightening the enemy.

We remind you of these things hoping that God Almighty would guide you to righteousness so that you would be the best aid in our jihad and tribulation. You would be the first of those honored to respond to this call. Your fate will be so determined that you do good deeds in this world and are rewarded in the eternal one.

In the name of jihad in the holy land, we ask the following of you.

1. To publicize and condemn officially Yitzhaq Shamir's statements in which he humiliated the person of Prophet Muhammad, as well as his soldiers who insulted the holy book in the village of Dayr Ballut in the West Bank, and to warn the enemy against any attempts to attack our religion, prophet, and holy book.

2. To give the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the opportunity to perform its duty through your media and institutions and facilitate the duties of those representing or supporting it, whether they are your citizens or otherwise, because it is carrying the nation's burden of leading jihad against the Jewish enemy and therefore deserves all your support and aid.

3. Not to participate in or support any schemes to legalize the usurpation of our rights in Palestine, whether on a small or large scale and regardless of the source of these schemes.

4. To open the borders for the mujahidin to enable them to perform their duty in the land of Palestine.

5. To offer financial, media, and political support for the Palestinian cause and the intifadah of its people.

6. To offer all necessary help to our sons in your country to enable them to perform their roles in supporting our steadfastness and jihad until God relieves them of their worries and they return to their homes. They will remember you for your principles which are similar to those of the al-Madinah followers of Muhammad who granted him and the Meccans who emigrated with him to al-Madinah refuge after the Hegira.

7. To depend on the 'ulema and Islamic charity committees, institutions, and parties as they are trustworthy bodies that will deliver the money to those who deserve it in support of the blessed Islamic intifadah.

To conclude, we have boundless hope that you will consider this message of ours with great care and translate it into a working program to stand by our side in the jihad for the sake of God against the international conspiracy over Palestine led by international Zionism represented by the Zionist entity in Palestine.

We in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, along with the people struggling in Palestine, and followed by every true Muslim, appreciate your honest principles and ask God Almighty to reward with blessings all those who take a heroic, manly, and honorable position on the

conspiracy being implemented by the enemies of Islam, the Jews, against the Holy Land. If ye will aid God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas"—Palestine

Syrians Reportedly Release 150 Detainees

JN1406192489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] In Sidon in southern Lebanon, the Fatah Movement has announced that Syria recently released 150 Fatah members but that 4,000 Palestinians are still detained in Syria. In a statement, Mu'in Shubaytah, the Fatah official in Lebanon, added that all those who were freed are from al-Yarmuk camp near Damascus and that they have all returned home. However, he did not say when they had been released.

Fatah Dissident on Continuing Armed Struggle

JN1406074089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Speech by Sa'id Musa Muragha, alias Abu-Musa, secretary of the Provisional Command of the Fatah Uprising—dissident—Movement at the graduation of a new class of fedayeen from "one of the front's training institutes" on 12 June; recorded]

[Text] Brothers, comrades, brave strugglers, when the tyrant agent falls, his life ends, and when the noble martyr falls, his life is renewed. This is our way, the way of martyrdom and struggle. A short while ago, I heard him asking the bearer of the flag to keep and protect the trust, which is represented by this flag. This flag is the land, the people, the history, the struggle, and our symbol. Keep and protect the trust, honest fighters, because the conspiracy is a great one and has numerous aspects, with different faces and tongues, some of which even speak Arabic. Yes, comrades, they are plotting against the blood of martyrs Muhammad Akar and Maylud, heroes of the Qibyah operation. They are plotting against you. We also have the heroes of the al-Na'imah operation. We have 'Adnan Jamil Abu-Jamil, a great and brave commander, who fought in the al-Na'imah operation to protect his comrades and the honor of the revolution, when they [the Israelis] came on the occasion of the first anniversary of the intifadah [uprising] to deal a blow to the intifadah through the al-Na'imah operation. Abu-Jamil and his comrades fell. They are plotting against the martyrs of the Bayt Awla operation, martyr Ibrahim al-Tumayzi [applause] and all the other martyrs. They are plotting against the blood of the martyrs from 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam to 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni as well as other martyrs who are falling today and will fall tomorrow. But we say that these honest faces, which believe in the homeland and the people and which were not born in Palestine but wanted to be in Palestine, are ready to struggle to preserve the trust and raise the flag until all of Palestine is liberated in spite all the agents.

Yes, brothers, they met in the Palais des Pins in Algiers on 15 November to decide in our name that four fifths of Palestine should go to the Zionists. But the honorable strugglers are not bound by all their concessions, concessions such as recognizing the Zionist entity and [UN] Resolutions 242 and 338 at the news conference held in Geneva during the UN session there, or in his [Yasir 'Arafat] encroachment on our national charter during his recent visit to Paris. I affirm that they cannot impose these resolutions and positions on us. Despite this, the fanatic Zionist Shamir says he will not leave an inch of territory in occupied Palestine. Shame and disgrace be upon them.

We, as a revolution, the preservers of the trust, and a generation which has decided to continue to struggle, the noble Palestinian armed struggle day and night, will continue to preserve and keep the trust. We received the trust directly from our fathers and grandfathers and we will continue, God willing, to protect it. If we fail today or tomorrow to achieve our goals, we will leave this bannner and this trust to our sons and grandsons to achieve the victory of the nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf, and not only the victory of the Palestinian people.

Salvation Front Condemns Ghali's Israel Visit

JN1306202489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] In Damascus, the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], which supports Syria and is hostile to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, today condemned the visit of Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali to Israel. The PNSF said the visit sought to peddle the U.S-Israeli plan adopted by Shamir for holding elections in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Al-Quds Radio Criticizes Radio Monte Carlo

JN1106143389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1335 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Dear struggler brothers: We have received the following from Al-Quds' radio correspondent in Gaza: At 1500 today, the Zionist enemy's radio and [Paris] Radio Monte Carlo reported that thousands of Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip traveled to the Palestinian land occupied since 1948, having been issued with magnetic cards.

While our people are aware of the aims behind the fabrication of this transparent lie by the Zionist enemy's radio, they are surprised that Radio Monte Monte Carlo should be carrying this story. The news has no basis in truth, and our heroic workers steadfastly maintain their

refusal to accept the magnetic cards. None of them reported for work today and none took any means of trasnport—cars or otherwise.

The Al-Quds radio correspondent adds that our people would prefer the news media to check their sources rather than propagate enemy stories. Radio Monte Carlo ought to verify the facts before putting out such news. The Al-Quds radio correspondent concludes by saying that Radio Monte Carlo has been carrying many such items for quite a while and has reported that the situation in Palestine is calm when this has not been the case, or indeed when many of the strugglers have been martyred. By giving currency to enemy stories today, Radio Monte Carlo has incurred the resentment of our people.

Egypt

Security Measures for U.S. Personnel Instituted

JN1406112089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Jun 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo last week distributed a circular to the mission personnel and U.S. nationals in Egypt alerting them to possible hostile attacks. The embassy asked them to be careful at this stage and to search their cars very carefully before driving to ensure that they are free of explosives. The embassy also warned American nationals against driving to remote areas and asked them to reduce their visits to public places. Instructions also included strict security measures around buildings housing members of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Cairo to avert any hostile actions against U.S. interests in Egypt.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. cultural center was exposed to an abortive bombing attempt when an unidentified person placed an explosive device inside the building.

AL-WAFD also learned that the Israeli Foreign Ministry has asked members of the Israeli diplomatic mission to take security measures to ensure their safety. The Foreign Ministry recommended that the number plates of the Israeli diplomats' cars in Cairo be changed periodically. Israeli diplomats imposed strict security measures around their homes. The Egyptian authorities tightened their own security measures on the homes of the Israeli diplomats and Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

Butrus Ghali Comments on Talks in Israel

NC1406131089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Informed Egyptian diplomatic sources have stated that during his meeting with some Palestinian figures in Israel, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, emphasized that Egypt believes that the intifidah [uprising] is a peaceful and popular revolution and a message of peace addressed to the Israeli people.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt's policy on the Palestinian issue is based on achieving unity between the Palestinians at home and those abroad. He said that Egypt believes that this is the basic rule for the Palestinian struggle at the present stage. Dr Ghali also emphasized the importance of maintaining the momentum in the peace process and of striving continuously to keep the Palestinian question in the limelight and at the focus of attention.

The diplomatic sources added that Dr Ghali explained that the Egyptian Embassy in Israel places itself at the disposal of the Palestinian struggle and that it is ready to carry out any mission tasked by the Palestinians.

The sources pointed out that during his discusions with the Palestinian leaders, Dr Ghali said that Egypt's message to the Israeli leadership is that it is necessary to contact and hold a dialogue with the PLO because it is an eternal fact which cannot be disregarded.

The Palestinian leaders stressed the importance of Egypt trying to pursuade Israel to respond to the Palestinian peace initiative. Hashim 'Abd-al-Shafi, one of these leaders, said that the Egyptian peace strategy has won great support in the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, which held an extraordinary session in Algiers last November, but it has not won support from Israel. He called on Egypt to persuade Israel to respond to Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat's peace initiatives.

He added that Israel does not want to be convinced of what is right and just. Therefore, decisive stands must be taken on the powers which support and aid Israel.

Hatim Abu-Ghazalah spoke next, noting that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative is just a maneuver to create alternative leaders through fictitious proposals for elections. He also noted that all previous experiments have failed and that this initiative is an attempt to sidestep the intifadah.

As'ad al-Sartawi, one of these leaders, noted that he and a number of Palestinians had met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and submitted to him a criticism of Shamir's plan and the principles on which it is founded. He also outlined to Rabin the basis of any peace plan acceptable to the Palestinians. Al-Sartawi affirmed that the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territories] are one and indivisible. He also affirmed their right to self-determination.

During the meting with Dr Ghali at the Egyptian Embassy in Herzliyya, Jack Khazmu, chief editor of AL-BAYADIR newspaper, also spoke. So did Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, who noted that Shamir's plan does not rise to the level of the Palestinian peace plan. It is divided into two stages, he said. He said there is an interim stage and a final stage through which Israel aims to establish peace with Jordan, ignoring the Palestinian people.

During his address, Khalid al-Qidrah, a Khan Yunis lawyer, asked about the nature of activity which Egypt intends to undertake in the future.

Shahid Sa'd, leader of the workers union, spoke on behalf of 165,000 Palestinian workers inside [the occupied territories]. He rejected Shamir's initiative and explained the violation of the rights of the Palestinians by Israeli authorities.

In his capacity as a surgeon who daily treats wounded Palestinians, Dr Ahmad al-Yazaji from Gaza explained that the Israelis deliberately break the bones of Palestinians, and that this is done not just during demonstrations.

Following his return from Israel, Dr Ghali met with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo last night and briefed him on the results of his meetings with Israeli officials and his assessment of his meetings with the Palestinian figures.

Interviewed on Israeli Plan

NC1406171689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] London, 14 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Israel's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories has both positive and negative aspects. He added that Egypt's role is to rectify the negative aspects of the Israeli plan.

In an interview with the BBC, Dr Ghali said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat does not object to the Israeli election plan but wants clarifications before accepting it.

Replying to a question about the reasons for his recent visit to Israel, Dr Ghali said that President Husni Mubarak had entrusted him with conveying an oral message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the peace process in the Middle East. Dr Ghali stressed that there is a firm link between the PLO and the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories because the PLO is their representative.

The Egyptian diplomat expressed the readiness of Egyptian diplomacy to work with the concerned parties so they can overcome the present obstacles to the peace process.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Ghali, Comments

NC1406135989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Anatoliy Adamishin, Soviet deputy foreign minister for African affairs, will arrive in Cairo in early July on a visit of several days to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the African issues and the forthcoming African summit, scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa between 24 and 27 July.

Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, made a statement to this effect folowing his meeting here today with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Asked about the Soviet Union's position on the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Soviet envoy said his country supports any grouping that aims to promote cooperation among the Arab states, particularly in the economic fields.

Regarding the proposal made by 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of science and development, to hold a meeting between President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Ambassador Zhuravlev said if such a meeting would lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue, no one could object to it.

He stressed that the Soviet Union supports and backs all the efforts that could lead to the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Minister Ghali reviewed with the Soviet ambassador the latest developments in the Middle East, as well as the Palestinian issue.

'Arafat Ends 2-Day Visit, Departs Cairo 14 Jun

NC1406074389 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, June 14 (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left here earlier this morning after a two-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also had talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali who briefed him on the outcome of his recent visit to Israel.

PLO Official on Visit

NC1406140589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo, has described Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo as important. He said the developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the Israeli intransigence toward the Palestinian peace call had been assessed during the visit.

In a statement to MENA, Al-Qidrah said the Egyptian and Palestinian views regarding Shamir's plan for elections are identical. Egypt and Palestine, he added, support the elections in the Palestinian territories, but only after the Israeli withdrawal and so long as these elections are held under international supervision, since freedom and democracy are indivisible.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From President Bush

NC0906183189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1811 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush this evening.

The two leaders discussed several important regional and international issues, particularly the Middle East problem and the exerted efforts to revive the peace process.

President Bush expressed his and the American people's appreciation for Egypt's active and positive role in the international arena and expressed his belief in the success of the efforts to revive the peace process.

Soviet Spokesman Comments on Role in Middle East

NC0906140789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Bonn, 9 Jun (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov has praised Egypt's return to the Arab League and said he hopes this will promote peace in the Middle East.

Gerasimov is visiting Bonn to prepare for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the FRG which will begin next Monday. He emphasized the need to make efforts to prepare for the convening of an international conference to discuss Middle East peace.

In an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent in Bonn, the Soviet spokesman remarked that the Middle East situation is still difficult, particularly with regard to Lebanon and the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

Asked about the Soviet role in moving forward the peace process, particularly in light of Soviet-U.S.European rapprochement and improved relations with Israel, Gerasimov said his country is conducting a dialogue with the Israelis in an attempt to persuade them to accept the idea of the international conference.

The Soviet spokesman noted that the Soviet and Israeli foreign ministers are holding regular contacts on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session and in other places, like the meeting held earlier in Cairo.

Asked about Shamir's peace plan, Gerasimov remarked that it is not a peace plan but rather a plan to hold elections. How can Israel hold elections which exclude the PLO, he asked.

Gerasimov said that in its present form, Shamir's plan is merely a maneuver to defer a real solution. He added that the idea of the elections can only be considered as part of a general settlement to the Middle East problem. He noted that only in this context can his country accept the idea of the elections. He also remarked that the present conception is not agreeable to the Palestinians either and that his country supports the Palestinians.

Gerasimov was asked what practical steps can the Soviet Union, as a superpower, take to push the peace efforts ahead. He said that his country is conducting a dialogue with the United States to persuade it to show more flexibility on the situation in the Middle East. He pointed out that experts from both sides are currently meeting to discuss regional issues, including the Middle East crisis.

Asked about the agenda of the meeting which he said will be held this month, Gerasimov said he has no information on this. [passage omitted]

Soviet Premier Cited on Developing Economic Ties

NC0906121989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov has praised the course of Egyptian-Soviet relations, emphasizing that these relations are constantly expanding and developing. In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today, the Soviet prime minister said that there are no problems between the two countries in connection with economic ties.

Ryzhkov described Arab-Soviet relations as good and noted that they are based on a strong foundation of mutual understanding.

USSR To Conduct Study on Suez Complex

NC0906122789 Cairo MENA in English 1207 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, June 9 (MENA)—Egypt and the Soviet Union have agreed that the Soviet Union carries out feasibility and economic studies for setting up a graphite complex in Suez that would have a production capacity of 27,000 tons per year.

The 70-million pound project would be established during three years, the board chairman of Al-Nasr Company for graphite, Ahmad Fathi 'Asqalani, has said. He added that the production of the said complex would meet in full the local requirements and that part of the production would be exported. He added that the studies by the Soviet Union would cost 750,000 clearing [as received] sterling and would be completed in nine months, following which the final agreement will be signed.

PRC Embassy Official Discusses Bilateral Trade

NC1406104789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Chen Huanming, commercial attache at the PRC Embassy in Cairo, has stated that officials in Egypt and China are considering the possibility of setting up a private sector factory for the manufacture of window grids, as a joint venture project.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent, the Chinese diplomat revealed that agreement has been reached with the Arab Investment Bank to establish a factory for the production of children's toys. He stated, however, that the project is still awaiting the approval of the leadership in both countries. He added that bilateral trade is satisfactory, noting that, since 1984, Egyptian exports to China have been largely confined to cotton. He noted that Chinese exports to Egypt reached approximately $50 million and its imports from Egypt reached $8 million in 1987, as against $30 million and $3 million, respectively, in 1986. He pointed out that the two countries have started to introduce the system of equivalent transactions. [passage omitted]

Chen Huanming said that although the trade balance has been in China's favor for the past 4 years, the $50 million to $60 million paid annually by Chinese ships using the Suez Canal help to balance bilateral trade. He said: Our exports to Egypt include chemicals, foodstuffs, and light industrial products, while our imports from Egypt include long-staple cotton and refrigerators. [passage omitted]

Talks With IMF Open in Cairo 13 Jun

NC1306131189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—The economic talks between Egypt and an IMF delegation opened here today. Central Bank Deputy Governor Sayyid Sinjar led Egypt's delegation to the talks, while the IMF team was headed by Paul Chabriet, IMF deputy executive director [name and title as received], who arrived in Cairo last night. The IMF delegation is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, as well as cabinet ministers.

A responsible economic source has stated that the discussions with the IMF team will center on the final form of letter of intent the Egyptian Government proposed to the Fund for its approval. The letter, the source added, includes government proposals to resolve some of the problems facing the Egyptian economy, particularly those related to unifiying the foreign currency exchange rates, reducing the deficit in the balance of payments, increasing the price of power to make it in line with international rates, and raising the interest rates on bank savings and deposits. It is worth noting that the government took positive steps on this last issue recently.

The source pointed out that the IMF teams that previously visited Egypt showed considerable understanding of the Egyptian position, calling for resolving these problems gradually while taking into consideration the social factors involved and the interests of those in the low income brackets. The source added that should the two sides reach an agreement during the talks, an Egyptian delegation will leave for Washington to sign the letter of intent at the IMF headquarters. Following this, the Egyptian Government would then be entitled to go to the Paris Club to reschedule approximately $4 billion in debts that matured on 1 July 1988 and are owed to Western governments. [passage omitted]

Columnist Comments on Visit to Libya

JN1106190789 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 9 Jul 89 pp 4-6

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Tripoli-Cairo ... The Road Is Safe"]

[Excerpts] What can a 6-hour visit to Tripoli yield? Nothing more than a hasty image and impression of the Libyan street following the agreement reached by Cairo and Tripoli to resume the two peoples' relations to normal. The trip took place on the occasion of the arrival of the first Egyptian plane in Libya after 11 years of the absence of relations. If I want to sum up the impression of the 6 hours, I can say that the intentions are honest, that we were warmly welcomed everywhere, that an overwhelming joy is being experienced by the Libyan people, and that the road between Cairo and Tripoli is safe. [passage omitted]

A large Libyan delegation arrived in Egypt 4 days before the departure of our plane to Tripoli. The delegation comprised scores of experts on every area. The mission of the delegation, a Libyan official said, is to open all channels of communication between the two countries.

—Experts on communications came to discuss the issue of linking Egypt and Libya by direct communication circuits that do not go through a third capital, even if this requires a sea cable that links the two countries directly.

—Experts on aviation came to sign an agreement under which Egyptian and Libyan planes will resume flights with two flights a day.

—Experts on agriculture came to discuss the possibility of cooperation in joint projects.

—Experts on education came to demand the resumption of the sending of teachers to Libyan schools.

—Experts on health came to seek cooperation in the medical area.

—Militrary personnel came to discuss the issue of restoring the situation in the border area to normal.

—Officials from the Foreign Ministry came to discuss the opening of liaison offices between the two countries before 20 June.

Political differences were not discussed by these joint committees, because President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had reached a clear-cut and definite agreement in Casablanca that political differences should not prevent good relations between the two peoples and that their joint interests should not be affected by the political differences.

Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi had reached another agreement in Casablanca that dialogue, direct contact, and respect for legitimacy are the only way to resolve any political dispute.

They also had reached a third agreement that the two countries should strictly abide by the principle of noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

They had also reached a fourth agreement that respect for law and international legitimacy will clear the way for promoting and strengthening these relations.

The issue of repatriation of political refugees to Libya was never discussed, because Libya knows in advance that Egypt will not relinquish any Libyan refugee. In fact, the Libyan delegation did not try to approach this issue at all.

In Tripoli, I was deeply interested in finding out whether that image had the same dimensions demonstrated by the Libyan delegation or if it had other dimensions.

Officials of the revolutionary committees assembled around the Egyptian delegation at the hotel lounge welcoming the members. The presence of Jamal, President Mubarak's youngest son, among the popular delegation indicated to the Libyans that the president is especially and seriously keen on relations of cordiality and good neighborliness with the Libyan people. Members of the committees were assembling around Jamal, shaking hands with him. A private escort then invited him for a cordial meeting with Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, a comrade of the colonel in the 1 September Revolution, as the colonel was not in Tripoli at the time.

Representatives of the Libyan Ministry of Labor [as published] also came to invite Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Trade Union Federation, to a joint meeting to discuss the issue of compensation for 9,000 Egyptian workers who left Libya without receiving their dues, estimated by the Egyptian Labor Ministry [as published] at 4 million Libyan dinars ($12 million).

Al-'Amawi returned 2 hours later to say that intentions were good and that a Libyan-Egyptian joint committee will be set up to discuss these dues. He said the dominant view is that the Libyans would make the compensation in one payment and leave the Egyptian Labor Ministry to distribute the money among the workers according to the documents each and every one of them presents.

Ambassador Nabil al-Sallawi was absent. He left with a number of Libyan Foreign Ministry officials to inspect three sites at the diplomatic quarter in Tripoli chosen to be the headquarters of the Egyptian diplomatic mission, which will work there under the name of the Egyptian Liaison Office in the Libyan tradition.

Al-Sallawi returned to announce that the liaison offices will begin their activities in both countries before 20 June and that each country will raise the flag of the other in its capital.

Our share, we the journalists, was a meeting with four members of the Revolutionary Committee for Information. They first came to complain about the bad picture the Egyptian media drew of the 1 September Revolution and its leader. The dialogue then continued, searching for an answer to the following important question: What are the guarantees for a stable relationship between the two peoples in light of political differences that both Egyptian and Libyan sides acknowledge?

As for the the businessmen, they were lost in the hotel halls. They did not find their Libyan counterparts, as the role of the commercial and industrial private sector in Libya had dwindled to a marginal level.

Our meeting, we the journalists, was so cordial, but the dialogue soon reached our important question: What are the guarantees?

A Libyan colleague said: The guarantees stem from us, the peoples. The quicker we move toward restoring the relations between the two peoples, the more difficult retreat becomes.

Another said: We want a more specific answer. The matter has never been like this. When the leaders on the summit are reconciled, we are reconciled, and when they clash, our interests clash. I think, however, that there is an agreement between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi that the relations between the two peoples remain removed from any political disagreements. This is perhaps what the circulars issued by the revolutionary committees after the Casablanca meeting clearly suggest.

A third colleague said: Things might be so, but I would like to say that the restoration of relations between the two peoples came in response to an overwhelming popular Libyan desire, expressed through this great joy at the green square.

This is so because the two peoples have always been, and will continue to be, two neighboring peoples linked with cordial bonds. It is also so because the Libyans do not find among all peoples of the world any people closer to them than the Egyptian people. We should not also forget that we are relatives and in-laws. There are 50,000 Egyptian wives in Libya, and they gave birth to some 250,000 children, now young boys and girls having their maternal uncles living in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Police Clash With Islamic Groups in Asyut

NC1406155989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Asyut, 14 Jun (MENA)—Asyut Police Chief Major General Mahmud al-Fakharani has said that the security situation in Asyut is calm and that life has returned to normal following recent incidents in the city caused by the violations of some members of Islamic groups.

A member of an Islamic group died today from wounds sustained during his participation in the clashes that took place between members of these groups and the security forces. His identity is not yet known.

A confrontation took place yesterday between a number of Islamic group members and the security forces next to the al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah Mosque when the Islamic group members tried to stage a march to protest the arrest of some of their colleagues who had clashed with the security forces on 11 and 12 June and destroyed two police cars.

Further on Arrests, Injuries

NC1406180789 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, June 14 (AFP)—One of eight Muslim fundamentalists injured Tuesday during clashes with security forces in the upper Egypt city of Asyut died Wednesday of his wounds, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported.

The man, who was not identified, was among about 100 militants who clashed with police to protest the arrest of nine people last week, the agency said. The nine had been rounded up Sunday for harassing women seen in the company of men not their husbands or kin. Police said demonstrators used firearms in the protest.

On Tuesday, Egyptian police arrested 21 Muslim fundamentalists in Asyut.

The Asyut security director, General Mahmud al-Fakharani, told the press the situation in the city had calmed down after the latest arrests.

10 Detainees Released

NC1406193989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Asyut, 14 Jun (MENA)—Asyut's Chief Prosecutor Counselor Jamal Tawfiq has ordered the release of 10 of the defendants in the incidents that took place in Asyut yesterday. The incidents were brought on by violations committed by some Islamic groups members.

Public Attorney Counselor 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mukhtar has also ordered that the body of Muhammad Faruq Mukhtar. Sulayman, a student at the College of Commerce who died today at the University Hospital in Asyut, be handed over to his family and then buried. The identity of the student had remained unknown until his death today when the intelligence service identified him.

The persons released are Ahmad 'Ali Rifa'i, student of law; Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad, from al-Ta'awn Institute; Abu-Ghunaymah Muhammad Hasan, student of law; Khalid Fathi Taha, a secondary school student; Rabi' Sabir Ahmad, a secondary school student; 'Atif Dassuqi, student at the Islamic Propagation College; Rabi' Hasan Muhammad, student at the Shari'a and Law College; Ahmad Mahmud Isma'il, a clerk; Jamal Yasin Muhammad, a physical education student; and Ahmad Badawi Muhammad Siddiq, holder of a secondary school industrial diploma.

Zaki Badr on Security Issues, Emergency Law

JN1006182489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Jun 89 p 8

[Text] Interior Minister Zaki Badr has affirmed that the Interior Ministry will provide many facilities for voters today during the Consultative Council elections and will set up information desks to guide citizens to the balloting centers where their names are registered. He also affirmed that the police are committed to complete impartiality during the elections. However, he affirmed that the police will not hesitate to take all measures against any individual or group that tries to disrupt security during the election process.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM, the minister said Egypt welcomes security cooperation with Syria and Libya, like that existing between Egypt and the Arab states.

Zaki Badr said that the policy of the police is not to counter violence with violence, but to counter violence with truth, justice, and the supremacy of law. He urged a reconsideration of the emergency law regulations to give further efficiency to security arrangements. The minister warned the masses against those who hide their intentions behind religion to achieve their own purposes.

The minister said 10 citizens were killed during clashes with police in recent months, which also witnessed the martyrdom and injury of a considerable number of policemen during clashes with the outlaws.

He said: My clear instructions order policemen to use their weapons to defend themselves and the security of the society in cases that necessitate it. I punish and take to account the policeman who fails to use his weapon when confronting a criminal who deserves to be killed in the interest of society and in accordance with the law.

On the emergency law, Zaki Badr said this law applies to terrorists, drug dealers, criminals, black market merchants, and money smugglers. Undoubtedly, he said, the dangers of these crimes are escalating, not fading. He said logic says the emergency law should not be canceled, as demanded, but to reconsider the measures approved by it to give further efficiency to the security arrangements.

On the recent Arab rapprochement, especially with Syria and Libya, and whether this rapprochement imposes new burdens or responsibilities on the security department in Egypt, the minister said the security department abides by the requirements of the supreme national interests. He added: Before being a security department, we are Egyptians and welcome and rejoice over any reconciliation between us and any Arab state. We bless President Mubarak's steps because we consider this reconciliation an added strength for Arab Egypt.

On Khomeyni's death and whether it will have a positive or negative impact on extremists, Zaki Badr said: It is strange that the man said in his will that Egypt is one of his most dangerous enemies. However, Badr added, what is more strange is that one of the opposition papers glorified and praised that man on its front page, although he did not forget while dying to spit out his poison against Egypt and its stands.

On the reconciliation between opposition parties, the minister affirmed that the opposition is a part of the regime. He said: This is not a commitment by myself, but a conviction that in democracy there must be another opinion. For my part, I have no personal feuds with any opposition party. I welcome the rapprochement of viewpoints toward various national and security issues in particular. All that I cling to is that there must be no illegal practices by them, because I cannot ignore someone violating the law.

On his stand on the religious trend, Zaki Badr said: Egypt believes in and abides by religious values. The religious trend is a national one and includes the entire people, without exception. If the Muslim Brotherhood is meant, this group does not exist, and I do not recognize its name. They are outlaws, and their organization is illegal. They do not exist in the national arena. If groups of violence and extremism are meant by the religious trend, I urged them more than once to reconsider their stands and abide by ulema statement and the law. They must give up violence and force. If they insist on their stands, they must be obliged to abide by the law and be confronted firmly and strongly.

Opposition Parties Cited on Poll 'Rigging'
JN1206183589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
11 Jun 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] Al-Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din has called the results of the Consultative Council's elections as announced by the Interior Ministry a huge farce and major scandal carried out by the government. The election results also betray the mentality and intelligence of the regime. It is inconceivable that all the candidates of the opposition parties and independents should have lost out in all but one or two of the constituencies!! Siraj-al-Din emphasized that never before in the entire history of parliamentary life in Egypt has there been such a disgrace. The outcome also evinces the extent to which the government underestimates the people and will of the nation. The leader of Al-Wafd added: The government has thus furnished the most eloquent evidence that the Al-Wafd Party made the right decision not to contest this farce, said Siraj-al-Din.

Al-Wafd's decision also shows the party to be farsighted and keenly aware of the present regime's tactics to grab everything even if that means recourse to falsification and rigging. Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din asked how there can be political stability in the country when the present regime misrepresents the popular will? Since the kickoff of the election campaign, he said, the government set about confiscating the rights of candidates from outside the National Democratic Party [NDP], banned them from holding rallies and staging marches, and confiscated their election bills, removed their wall posters, and arrested many of their supporters and delegates of electoral committees. Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din wondered: How on Earth could proper elections be held under such terror and arrests when candidates and their delegates to the committees are expelled to make it possible for the NDP's candidates to blacken [taswid] ballots to favor its candidates? Siraj-al-Din emphasized that this electoral farce discredits the regime both internally and externally and once again proves that this regime is not to be trusted with conducting any election.

Eng Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Labor Party, has said that according to eyewitness accounts, the election committees have not confirmed the figures announced by the interior minister. The delegates and candidates were also barred from the committees. Party functionaries involved in the elections have been arrested. Therefore, the elections were fundamentally flawed and rank as a major disaster. Ibrahim Shukri said he believes the elections will have repercussions for future political action. Governors and security chiefs have resorted to violence and blackmail on an unprecedented scale, added Shukri.

Al-Ahrar Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said that the elections mark a setback for democracy. It is inconceivable that there was such a turnout as announced by Interior Minister Zaki Badr—a level unmatched even in long-standing democracies. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi, secretary-general of the Al-Ahrar Party, said he would have preferred Al-Wafd Party to contest the elections if only to show them for what they are. He stressed that Al-Wafd Party did the right thing to boycott the polls. We participated so the world learns the shape of democracy they want for Egypt.

Dr Rif'at Amin al-Sa'id, secretary to the Central Committee of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], said that whoever expected a different result in the elections must be out of touch with the state of Egyptian politics, given that election irregularities have become a foregone conclusion. Now, the NDP does not brook even a modicum of opposition. Let the NDP savor all the seats in the Consultative Council. For us, they are not worth the trouble. Dr al-Sa'id added: The most ominous thing, however, is that they have adopted rigging as a policy and thus have opened up the gates of hell. A great many Egyptians do want to see change take place—the Egyptians who are enduring suffering beyond the capacity of ordinary humans as they witness corruption, parasitism, and favoritism bleeding the country for a handful of people known to us all.

Rif'at al-Sa'id asserted that the Interior Ministry is thwarting the efforts of those wishing to effect even limited change or engage in legitimate opposition and some semblance of protest.

The secretary-general of the Central Committee of the NPUG added that they have blocked the way of a cascade; but the waters will have to find an alternative course. Thus the regime consecrates the dictum that there is no way out through the parliamentary gate. This is the gate to hell since it leads to violence. Dr Rif'at al-Sa'id contends that the biggest loser in these elections

is the regime itself since it will find no one ready to buy these results. Woe be to a regime that stands naked and indicted as a liar before the masses.

Chancellor al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi of the Muslim Brotherhood, and People's Assembly member, commented on the Consultative Council's results by saying: Falsifying the will of the electorate so blatantly and unprecedentedly is a calamity that destroys the democratic experiment in Egypt and dashes the hopes held out for progress in the country. It is saddening and revolting that the government should have taken the nation to such a deep abyss. We had anticipated rigging right from the start of the elections and so we were not surprised.

Muslim Brotherhood on Elections

NC0906101089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, has accused the Egyptian Government of rigging yesterday's consultative council elections. He said the authorities introduced ballots already marked in favor of the ruling party's candidates into some polling stations, taking advantage of the low turnout at these stations.

Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr announced that some irregularities had taken place at some areas in the course of voting. He said some opposition supporters had been detained for violating the election laws.

People's Assembly Approves Socioeconomic Plan

NC1406152189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—The People's Assembly, in a session today presided over by its speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, approved the draft socioeconomic development plan for the fiscal year 1989-90 and the draft law to this effect.

Sixteen members of the Socialist Labor Party present at the session abstained, while Deputy Jamal As'ad, also from the Socialist Labor Party, voted for the draft plan. Members of the new Wafd Party voted for the draft plan.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Egyptian Party Leaders

LD1406175989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Jun (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received the leaderships of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Party and the Socialist Labor Party.

Egypt's Al-Din Makes Statement

LD1406184489 Tripoli JANA in English 1721 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Party (NPUP) in Egypt Khalid Muhyi al-Din and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah during which they joined the Libyan Arab people in celebrating the 19th anniversary of the eviction of U.S. troops and bases from the Libyan Arab soil and the international gathering for the Al-Qadhdhafi International Human Rights Award.

In a statement to JANA, he said: "We attended the human rights conference during which we granted the Al-Qadhdhafi International Human Rights Award to the African freedom-fighter who struggles against race discrimination. All Arab delegates stood to defend him for there is a link between anti-Zionism and anti-apartheid struggles.

"I highly appreciate the initiative to allocate such award by the International People's Committee to the African freedom fighter. We hope this award and this initiative give a new concept to human rights, which reinforce the right of nations in freedom and fight for the natural human rights."

He concluded: "I salute the people of Great Jamahiriyah which struggles, fully aware, for preserving its Arabism and defend it. There is a new optimism for a spring of relation between the two countries. We hope it continues and prospers for the common "cause of the Arab nation."

PLO's Ahmad Jibril Cables Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1406202489 Tripoli JANA in English 1718 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ahmad Jibril, the secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, expressed pride and appreciation for the allocation of the international Al-Qadhdhafi award for human rights and the big success achieved by the international gathering of the international people's committee for the award on both Arab and international levels. He asserted that that has consolidated the pioneering role of Great Jamahiriyah in the struggle for human rights in the world.

In a cable to the leader, Jibril asserted: "The feat of Al-Qadhdhafi International Human Rights Award is the other side of Jamahiriyah's role in the struggle against the most viscious powers abusing human rights—Zionism." He pointed out that the success of the international gathering will be a credit for the cause of the Arab nation for justice and liberation—the cause of freedom, peace and progress in the world. He hailed the firm stances of principles of the Great Al-Fatih [September] revolution

and its leader in backing the Arab liberation movement and the struggle of the Palestine Arab people against the enemies of the Arab nation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Malian Envoy

LD1406172389 Tripoli JANA in English 1452 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has received Mr. Bakary Traore, minister of sports, arts and culture (?and) personal envoy of the president of Mali and currently chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. [name indistinct].

Mr. Bakary Traore has handed the leader of the revolution a letter from President Moussa Traore.

Sudan

Deputy Premier Cited on Talks With Garang

NC1406133089 Cairo MENA in English 1253 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum June 14 (MENA)—Sudanese Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who chaired the governmental delegation to the recent peace talks on southern Sudan said the talks were successful and represented a great victory and will pave the way for further confidence between the Sudanese Government and the popular movement led by John Garang.

Al-Husayn said in a statement today that the talks with Garang which ended on Monday [12 June] in Addis Ababa had been serious and frank and took into consideration Sudan's circumstances and the need to build up and cement national unity. He added that the talks focused on the issue of military agreements and the Islamic shari'a laws besides fixing a date for the holding of a constitutional national conference in Sudan.

Al-Husayn said the John Garang movement left to the governmental delegation the choice of the suitable timing for the constitutional national conference in Sudan which has been preliminary fixed for September 18.

He further expressed hope for the coming phase to witness calm in the military operations regions.

Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is due to meet with Al-Husayn in the next couple of days as the latter will submit to him a full report on the negotiations with the popular movement.

Meanwhile the Sudanese delegation returned home last night from Addis Ababa after holding talks with the representatives of the John Garang movement.

Garang's Washington Visit Detailed

EA1106071289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from Washington say the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] leader, Dr John Garang de Mabior, has had a series of meetings over the last 2 days with a number of American congressmen. On Wednesday, 7 June 1989, the SPLM leader and accompanying delegation met at the Capitol Hill with Senators Emerson and Paul Simon in addition to Congressman Mickey Leland. The discussions, which were concluded in an atmosphere of great cordiality, centered around the issues of peace and relief. The congressmen told the SPLA leader that they were pleased with the movement's decision to extend the cease-fire by 2 more weeks following its expiry on 31 May 1989. They reiterated the commitment of the American people and government to peace in Sudan and the need to provide relief assistance to all the needy in Sudan. They however stressed that they wanted peace in Sudan to be accompanied with justice and equality.

On the following day, Thursday 8 June 1989, the SPLM/SPLA leader held a press conference which was organized by Congressmen Howard, (?Wolpe), Emerson and Leland, and soon after that the SPLM leader was received by the deputy minority leader, Republican Senator Nancy Kassenbaum. On that same day the SPLM leader attended a tea party held in his honor by the Congressional Black Caucus. The prevalent (?issues) during all these meetings were peace and relief. The SPLM leader's working day was concluded with a meeting between him and the assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, Mr Herman Cohen. This meeting was attended by the American ambassador to Sudan.

MENA Reports on Continuation of SUNA Strike

NC1106190889 Cairo MENA in English 1850 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 11 (MENA)—The strike which the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY staffers started yesterday continued today and they plan to remain striking for a whole week.

The strikers protest against some administrative vacuums caused three months ago after the director general and six other leaderships were pensioned off.

A statement issued by the striking staffers called for forming a board for SUNA, reopening offices abroad and improving financial conditions.

Bahrain

Djibouti President Arrives in Manama 14 Jun

JN1406104589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Manama, 14 Jun (WAKH)—Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived in Manama today from Kuwait on an official 2-day visit to Bahrain.

He was received at the airport by Bahraini Amir His Highness 'Isa Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, Prime Minister Khalifah Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, ministers, and senior civic and military officials.

During the visit, the Djibouti president will hold talks with the Bahraini amir on bilateral relations and means of promoting them, the current Gulf, Arab, African, and international developments, and issues of common interest.

The Djibouti president is accompanied by a delegation which includes Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah.

Confers With Amir, Ministers

JN1406120389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Manama, 14 Jun (WAKH)—Official talks between Bahraini Amir His Highness 'Isa Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah and Djibouti President Hassan Gouled began here today.

Attending the talks on the Bahraini side were His Highness Khalifah Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak al-Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalid al-Khalifah, minister of justice and Islamic affairs and head of the escort mission; and Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah al-Khalifah, interior minister. The talks were attended on the Djibouti side by Moumin Bahdon Farah, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and Isma'il 'Umar, head of the President's Office.

During the talks, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them, particularly in the economic field. They also reviewed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, its resolutions, and the developments that followed in the Arab arena.

The Bahraini amir and the Djibouti president exchanged views on the Arab Gulf region, the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa.

Sources close to the conferees said that the talks were constructive and permeated by a fraternal atmosphere. The two sides' were in agreement on all issues.

The Djibouti president repeated his invitation to the Bahraini amir to visit Djibouti.

Departs Manama 15 Jun

JN1506080789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0705 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Manama, 15 Jun (WAKH)—Djibouti President Hassan Gouled left Manama this morning for home after a 2-day official visit during which he held talks with His Highness the Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah dealing with strengthening bilateral relations especially in the economic fields. The talks also discussed the current developments in the Arabian Gulf region and current Arab and international developments in addition to the results of the emergency Arab summit held recently in Casablanca.

He was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, His Highness Prime Minister Khalifah Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, and a number of ranking Bahraini officials.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa and President Hassan Gouled this morning held a second round of talks on means of developing bilateral relations and other issues of joint interest.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister's White House Meeting Noted

LD1506005589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency President of the United States George Bush, received at the White House today His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, who handed his excellency a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, concerning the mission of the tripartite committee set up by the extraordinary Arab summit held recently in Casablanca and which is charged with resolving the Lebanese crisis.

During the meeting, His Excellency George Bush expressed his appreciation of the major role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of the level of respect it enjoys under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques in its efforts to assist in achieving stability in Lebanon. President Bush also expressed interest in meeting His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal to discuss the peace initiative stemming from the Arab summit and the Kingdom's participation in the efforts of the tripartite committee. President Bush said that those efforts indicate goodwill which enjoys U.S. support to facilitate achieving peace in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Afghan Mujahidin Leader, Delegation Received

LD1506014289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The deputy of the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Royal Highness Amir Abdallah Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, received in his royal highness's office at the

royal bureau at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon his excellency the foreign minister of the interim government of the Afghan mujahidin, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, and his delegation.

Defense Minister Signs Arms Deal With France

For coverage of the visit to France by Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, defense minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including reportage on a French-Saudi arms deal signed during his visit, see the France section of the 6 June West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

AL-MADINAH on U.S. Support for Israel

PM1406152289 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 Jun 89 p 1

[Editorial: "U.S. Contradiction"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration continues to protest and to express its condemnation and rejection of the Chinese forces' inhumane confrontation with demonstrators and their firing on unarmed students—to the extent that the U.S. Government has reconsidered the status of its relations, frozen some areas of cooperation, and suspended the supply of advanced scientific information to China. This, because the Chinese Army has confronted unarmed people with violence and bullets in Tiananmen Square.

This is one aspect of U.S. feelings and of the U.S. ban—a humane position reflecting respect for citizens' determination to express their views and demand the rights of expression, freedom, and democracy.

But the view and the position differ when the world—represented by the Security Council—condemns every kind of repression, crime, and brutality committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories.

The United States that condemns the Chinese Army's brutality and violation of citizens' and young people's freedoms in Chinese towns and provinces is the same United States that undermines the condemnation of Israel in the Security Council by its veto against the resolution of condemnation.

The question that arises is this: How do we assess the position of a civilized and scientifically and technologically advanced superpower which has long fought for freedom, truth, and peace?

How are we to judge it when it violates the right of others to condemn the ugliest practices in human history?

Israel has perpetrated, and continues to perpetrate, in broad daylight, every kind of repression, murder, and destruction against the Arab people and their territory.

It continues to violate their aspiration to self-determination. And yet we see a superpower, whose Constitution is based on respect for freedom, violating one of the Arab people's rights on their territory. Why? Because the resolution condemns Israel.

The U.S. policy of unlimited support for Israel have turned the United States into a nation which supports aggression and contributes to the violation of human rights.

Editorial on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

PM1306111089 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 9 Jun 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Text] The PLO and the United States have resumed their dialogue in Tunis. Although this step has been welcomed as a sign of relaxation in U.S.-Palestinian relations that would certainly affect Middle East peace efforts, Washington's position still falls well short of logical expectations. On the whole, it is still a position of support for the Israeli view. At best, it oscillates between absolute support for, and occasional criticism of some aspects of, Israeli policy.

PLO officials note that the views submitted by the U.S. delegation to the dialogue mirror the Israeli enemy's views. That approach undoubtedly serves Zionist objectives, which are against any kind of contacts between the PLO and the U.S. Administration. This being the case, the dialogue will ultimately make no substantial progress that would enhance the chances of a settlement of the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general.

If the dialogue is really to succeed, the United States must put forward new ideas, just like the PLO, which has submitted many ideas and initiatives.

The Israeli practices in the occupied territories reflect a consistent policy based on aggression and expansionism. That is why mere criticism of some aspects of that policy neither serves the cause of peace nor prevents a repetition of such practices. The building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories denotes an Israeli desire to expand and annex Arab territory. The escalation of repressive measures to quell the legitimate Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is one aspect of the Israeli strategy of physical liquidation of the Palestinian people and of emptying the land of its indigenous people.

Logic dictates tangible work against the aggressive and expansionist policies which are the main features of the general Israeli policy. The required U.S. role includes specific initiatives and ideas in the interest of peace and stability in the region.

Ambassador on 'Suspect' British Media Campaign

JN1406190689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] London, 14 Jun (INA)—Iraqi Ambassador to Britain Muhammad Sadiq al-Mashshat met here today with the British-Iraqi Parliamentary Group at the British House of Commons.

The ambassador explained to the group the objectives of the suspect media campaign being launched by the British news media to tarnish Iraq's reputation and spoke on the effect of this on bilateral relations. He also explained the humanitarian and security dimensions of the resettlement of residents of areas located on the Iraqi-Iranian borders and affirmed that this process has not been restricted to Kurdish areas. He asserted that this resettlement process is affecting all border villages extending from northern Iraq to southern Iraq, as the Iraqi Government has built modern villages for them.

Al-Mashshat affirmed Iraq's desire to develop Iraqi-British relations to serve the present and future interests of the two countries. He also touched on the need to establish a British-Iraqi friendship society so that such a society can serve as a nucleus for developing bilateral relations.

Daily Calls for 'Permanent Peace' With Iran

JN1006105089 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 10, INA—Iraqi AL-THAWRAH daily has stressed Iraq's absolute keeness to its established and principled approach towards peace with Iran.

In a commentary published here today titled "For Permanent Peace," the daily said Iraq was abiding by calling upon Iran to turn the ceasefire into permanent peace in order that both countries could live free according to their options and their relations stabilized away from any probabilities of re-warring.

The paper urged Iran to give up its mode of procrastination, manoeuvre and interansigence during the direct negotiations, and to deal earnestly and responsibly with the Security Council Resolution 598, for it represented "a complete plan to realize comprehensive peace."

AL-THAWRAH added that Iran was meant to achieve peace which required to abandon methods of mixing cards and imposing preconditions, and to enter into negotiations with Iraq "otherwise, Iran will be directly responsible for delay of negotiations and for not realising any progress so far."

The daily emphasised that the sole way open for the Iranian regime was to proceed sincerely and seriously to the direct negotiations and to shun bad illusions and dreams, for they would not lead but to further destruction and damage and which still evidenced the eight-year-long war.

Syria 'Should Listen' to Lebanon Committee

JN0406101989 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 4 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 4, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said that Syria should listen to the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon as it is the major party of the crisis in Lebanon.

The committee comprising the Saudi and Moroccan monarchs and Algerian president is scheduled to hold its first meeting in Morocco today to lay down basis of its activity for resolving the Lebanese crises.

A daily commentary here today said that presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon means that Syria is continuing the implementation of the design of partitioning Lebanon which was laid down by Tel Aviv. The continued presence of Syrian troops also means that Syria insists on obstructing works of the committee and blocking any settlement of the Lebanese crisis aspired for by the Lebanese people. Syria's departure from Lebanon would ensure succes of the committee in restoring stability. Security and national unity in Lebanon. The daily stressed.

AL-THAWRAH Calls on Arabs To Defend Lebanon

JN2705100689 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 27 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 27, INA—The Iraqi Daily AL-THAWRAH said that the Arab leaders shoulder the responsibility of defending Lebanon's existence and they are demanded to speak on behalf of the Lebanese people.

In a commentary published here today the newspaper warned against deviating from the facts and accepting the absence of Lebanon from the Arabs in a way that contributes to achieve the wishes of Hafiz al-Asad in dividing Lebanon and harming its unity.

The paper stressed that the Arab demand for the immediate and comprehensive withdrawal of Hafiz al-Asad regime forces from Lebanon is legitimate and just one, otherwise Lebanon's wound would remain open and bleeding, the thing that threatens Lebanon with destruction and annihiliation.

AL-THAWRAH paper said that following up the developments of the Casablanca summit conference proves that Hafiz al-Asad is alone in adopting his attitude and because he knows that well he resorts to manuevres and calming to avoid condemnation and collective demand for withdrawal from Lebanon.

AL-QADISIYAH Cited on Kurds' Privileges

JN1006104789 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 10, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad said that our Kurdish people entertained the best public services under leadership of President Saddam Husayn and establishment of the legislative and executive institutions in the Autonomy Region.

In a commentary published here today, the newspaper added that at the top of the accomplishments that the political leadership achieved, was the constitutional recognition of the Kurdish nationality and legislation of the autonomy law.

It clarified that the central authority now comprised vice-president of the Republic, five Kurdish ministers, deputy speaker of the National Assembly in addition to the two chairmen of the two legislative and executive councils.

The paper confirmed that several laws had been passed in favour of the Kurdish people and to offer them the social, cultural and economic services.

The paper clarified that the Kurdish people were now practising their national and democratic rights in full. Among these rights are: election of members of the Legislative Council, the establishment of Salah al-Din University and creation of bodies and directorates for spreading the Kurdish culture in addition to the practice of political activity by both Kurdish parties, the Democratic and the Revolutionary.

The newspaper added that in the Kurdish Autonomy Region there were now more than 2,700 economic, constructional, tourist and agricultural projects and also 40 hospitals, 44 centers for maternal and childhood care and 200 health centers.

The paper also said that the Kurdish language was an official one besides the Arabic language in Kurdistan and the Kurdish radio transmits for 20 hours every day in addition to the transmission of the Kurdish T.V. program in the region.

The paper confirmed that the opportunity of the general amnesty for the escaped Kurds inside and outside the country, that the Revolution Command Council had provided, was a historic, just, humane and comprehensive charts. [sentence as received]

Oil Minister on Development, Export Projects

PM1506085689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 89 p 10

[Interview with Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi by Walid al-Ja'fari in Vienna; date not given]

[Excerpts] Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has praised the agreement signed by the OPEC ministers in Vienna on 7 June and described it as acceptable to all parties and consistent with current positive developments, with regard to both prices and demand. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Iraqi minister mentioned the issues which the follow-up committee will discuss at its Paris meeting in September. He said that some ministers will join the meetings of the eight-minister follow-up committee to discuss a production ceiling, prices, and the terms and broad outlines of a long-term strategy, in addition to the terms and considerations for the redistribution of quotas. [passage omitted]

'Isam al-Jalabi also spoke about the situation in the Iraqi oil sector, new discoveries, development projects, and cooperation between Iraq and the Arab states in the oil industry.

The oil sector in Iraq, he said, has witnessed tangible progress in implementing development projects, rebuilding the installations damaged during the war, developing new oilfields, and drawing up an export plan centered on three main points: Iraqi ports, pipelines across Turkey, and pipelines across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Priority, he said, will be given to the reconstruction of oil export installations in the ports of Al-Bakr, Al-'Amiq, and Khawr al-Zubayr, and the export output will increase to approximately 6 million barrels. [passage omitted]

With regard to the East Baghdad oilfield, the Iraqi minister said that it was discovered in early seventies and the data shows that the oilfield extends from south of the River Diyala through East Baghdad right to the al-Taji region in the North—an area of approximately 700 km by 40 km.

Studies have shown that the field's existing oil stockpile is an estimated 1.5 billion tonnes, the potential oil stockpile 1 billion tonnes, and the potential oil stockpiles in the field's extensions nearly 1.4 billion tonnes.

Work on that project—known as "the pioneering project for production from the East Baghdad oilfield"—started in May, and the output of the project in the first stage, "Al-Rashidiyyah," is 20,000 barrels of crude oil and 14 million cubic feet of gas a day.

As for plans to export oil products, the Khawr al-Zubayr project is an important achievement in that field. That project will provide hard currency and reduce the high costs of exports via Jordanian and Turkish ports. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi oil sector, Al-Jalabi added, has made further achievements and improved financial returns and output both quantitatively and qualitatively. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi minister also spoke about the second strategic pipeline in al-Rumaylah, in southern Iraq, the first stage of which started in May. That pipeline links the al-Rumaylah oilfield with the port of al-Hadithah in the West, is 750 km long, and is expected to be completed in 33 months.

On relations of cooperation between Iraq and the Arab states, Al-Jalabi said that such relations did not stop even during the years of war and that Iraq has made a major contribution to oil discoveries in, and supplied technical support to, a number of Arab states including the Yemeni Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Jordan, Sudan, Somalia, and others. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Meets General Motors Executive

JN0706174589 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 7, INA—Mr. Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization today conferred here with Mr. John Rim, vice chairman of the American General Motors Company and the delegation acompanying him.

During the meeting, discussions touched on relations between the Iraqi industrial establishments and the company within the frame of implementing the agreement on saloon cars industry in Iraq which was enacted last month.

The minister stressed that his Ministry organs would provide from their side all means for bringing to success the project of cars industry in Iraq. The U.S. company official said the project would contribute to serve the economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Ramadan Receives CSSR Parliamentary Delegation

JN0706161789 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jun 7, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and first deputy premier met today with Dr Jan Janik, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly and his accompanying delegation.

Aspects of cooperation between Iraq and Czechoslovakia in all fields were discussed. The two sides expressed satisfaction over progress of relations between the two friendly countries.

The RCC member reviewed the under way measures implemented in Iraq, pointing that passing the laws of multi-party system, the new constitution and press freedom as a significant step for deepening the democratic practice.

The first deputy premier touched on Iraqi economic program in the current and future stages and the strategic industrial and agricultural projects being executed in Iraq. He also confirmed that the administrative and economic reform in Iraq had the big effect in raising the standard of the national economy.

The Czechoslovak deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly expressed his country's institutions desire of increasing fields of trade and economic cooperation with Iraq.

Joint Committee With Zambia Begins Meetings

JN0506114089 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 5, INA—The Iraqi-Zambian Joint committee today started here three-day meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization and Mr. Gibson Chigaga, Zambian Minister of Finance.

Speaking at the beginning of the committee meeting, Mr. Kamil expressed hope that the meetings would be a new step for strengthening relations between the two countries. The Zambian minister expressed his country's gratitude over Iraq's stances and continued support of the developing countries even during the aggressive war against it.

The two sides reviewed trade exchange between the two countries and possibility of expanding its volume and concluding a trade deal in addition to the agreement on supplying Iraq with copper during this and next year and Zambia's participation in the Baghdad International Fair.

The committee is due also to discuss technical cooperation between the two countries and prospects of establishing joint ventures in the fields of industry, mining and agriculture.

Air Force Officer Interviewed on Raid in Lebanon

TA1406151889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Telephone interview with Brigadier General G., chief of Air Force Staff by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Good evening, sir.

[G] Good evening.

[Shilon] Was the Air Force raid, carried out so close to Beirut, an act of either retaliation or of deterrence?

[G] Neither. Our policy is that whenever accumulated reports give reasonable grounds to the assumption that a certain place harbors terrorist training and organization for a terrorist operation, we attack so as to hit them.

[Shilon] Did the intelligence data indicate that they were organizing for such an operation?

[G] They were in the process of training, which naturally serves as a step toward a terrorist attack. We cannot, however, say precisely what the attack was going to be.

[Mardor] Carrying out an attack deep in Lebanon, 10 km away from Beirut, is a blatant move. Judging by the recent Air Force activities, it was not a routine operation.

[G] No, I do not think it is a blatant move. We attack the terrorists whenever our reports indicate that they are training. Neither is there any significance in the fact that the place was 10 km away from Beirut.

[Shilon] Is there no danger of challenging the Syrians?

[G] No, I think the rules of the game are clear to us, to the terrorists, and to the Syrians. We have no intention of coming into any kind of contact whatsoever with the Syrians—either with their Air Force or their infantry. Very clear rules of behavior are observed there.

[Shilon] Are the Syrians aware of these rules? Have they accepted and agreed to them?

[G] Perhaps not in declarations—but implicitly, judging by the way they behave, we can tell that they have accepted the rules of behavior with respect to our method of defending Israel in Lebanon.

[Shilon] With reference to what you have just said regarding rules, would it be correct to say that what is going on in Lebanon is a sort of wild west, where rules of the jungle prevail, with us playing games in that jungle?

[G] I cannot make general statements with regard to Lebanon as the wild west, but from our point of view, certain rules of conduct have been created, and they are far from being those of the wild west. We do not attack the Syrians themselves; in our raids, we do not even come close to the Syrians. They, on their part, make no attempt to shoot us down when we attack targets in Lebanon. The rules are pretty clear.

[Shilon] Since the rules have not been put down in writing, is it not possible that someone will break them, and we will then be swept into a campaign for which we had not bargained?

[G] Of course, it is very possible that someday someone will not act according to the rules, so to speak. Still, from such an infringement it is a far cry to being swept into a campaign. On the other hand, it is our duty to deal with the terrorist squads; they take priority over other rather insubstantial considerations or evaluations saying that such a raid can involve us in a confrontation with the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Rabin Returns From France

TA1406191989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening returned to Israel after a 4-day visit to France. He visited the Le Bourget air show, and conferred with the French prime minister and the defense minister, but was not able to meet President Mitterrand.

Aide Denies 'Arafat Message

TA1506101589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 89 p 12

[Text] "Madame Mendes-France didn't bring (Defence Minister) Rabin any message from the PLO," a source in the minister's entourage said last night shortly after returning from a three-day visit to Paris.

"She distorted what was said and we were warned that she would do exactly that," the source, added. "We were told not to have anything to do with her."

The source was commenting on reports yesterday that Marie-Claire Mendes-France, wife of the late Pierre Mendes-France, a former prime minister, was rebuffed by Rabin after a breakfast meeting on Tuesday [13 June] in Paris with French Jewish intellectuals. She approached Rabin to deliver a message from PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat that he favoured elections in the territories following an Israeli withdrawal.

According to the reports, Rabin told Mendes-France, a supporter of a direct Israel-PLO dialogue that he was not willing to receive the message and that Israel does not speak to the PLO.

The source said the reports were based on Mendes-France's version of the exchange. He confirmed, however, that during the breakfast meeting Rabin had said, in response to a question from Mendes-France, that if

the Palestinians accept elections, the subject of troop deployment would be open to debate, recalling that during elections in 1976 soldiers kept a low profile.

"On the assumption that the elections will be held, the territories will remain under Israeli control but the IDF's [Israeli Defense Forces] deployment at the time is a technical issue which is open to negotiation," the minister said.

The PLO has stated it is willing to accept negotiations if the IDF withdraws a month in advance.

Paper Cites Rabin Interview

PM1406110689 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Jun 89 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Jean-Pierre Langellier in Paris on 12 June]

[Text] "We want the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza to become our partners in peace!" At the age of 67, Mr Yitzhaq Rabin still feels impatience. At the end—temporary?—of a long and stormy political and military career which began even before the birth of the Jewish state, the present Israeli defense minister said once again that he expects the enemy to respond to Jerusalem's offers. But, unlike Moshe Dayan, his predecessor, who once said he was hoping for "a telephone call from King Husayn," Yitzhaq Rabin now knows—after 18 months of uprisings in the occupied territories—that Israel can no longer make a mistake about its interlocutor: Peace will obviously be reached with the Palestinian people.

On a brief visit to Paris where he has come to represent his country at the Le Bourget air show, Mr Rabin gave an interview to LE MONDE on Monday, 12 June, in which he expressed strong support for the "peace initiative" adopted 1 month ago by the Israeli Government of national unity in which the Likud, led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, cohabits with the Labor Party. In the eyes of Mr Rabin, who has always been a member of the Labor Party, this initiative, which makes provision for elections to be held in the territories, rightly has the merit of being a compromise between the two big parties. "It does not matter what a particular minister might say on his party's platform. What counts is that we have found a common position. Immediately after the last elections (on 1 November) I was in favor of national unity. The peace initiative proves that I was right."

Is he not moving rather too quickly? After all, the Likud right-wing led by Ariel Sharon and David Levi is already organizing opposition to an initiative which it intends to scuttle at its Central Committee meeting scheduled for 2 July. The mere idea of such sabotage revolts Mr Rabin. "What? This is an initiative supported by the Bush administration, by virtually the whole U.S. Senate, and yet it is to be called into question in Israel itself! No, it is inconceivable. Moreover, I do not even want to think about the possible consequences of such a defeat."

Let us accept Mr Rabin's optimistic gamble in the short term. What will happen then? "Our partners for negotiations," he said, "are the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza. Our initiative is addressed to them. Numerically speaking, they form the main Palestinian community. It is their future and their destiny which will be at stake in the negotiations. We therefore want Palestinians from the territories who have been democratically elected to negotiate with us on an interim autonomy agreement. We are prepared to change the situation, to offer the Palestinians what the Arab world never offered them when they were under its control."

It is clear that in Mr Rabin's view there are Palestinians and Palestinians. Like all Israeli officials, he still refuses to envisage negotiations with the PLO leaders—those he calls "the Tunis people." He draws a "clear, fundamental distinction" between the PLO and the internal Palestinians. "The PLO," he continued, "still emphasizes two crucial demands which are unacceptable to us: The establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank, in East Jerusalem, and in Gaza; the right to return for 1.5 million Palestinians into Israel itself. However, as Abba Eban once said, suicide is not one of Israel's international obligations."

However, any Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Mr Rabin stresses, can only advance in stages. Initially, the aim is to organize temporary autonomy in the occupied territories; second, to establish their final status. "Any attempt to organize a permanent solution now, at a stroke, will lead to deadlock or to an explosion. The conflict is so complex and emotional that it can only be solved gradually, as was the case with Egypt from 1973 to 1979."

That is why Mr Rabin refuses not only to envisage the nature of any final solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but also to examine the form of any future elections in the territories which he regards, against all the evidence, as mere "technical details:" Participation in the election by the inhabitants of East Jerusalem, the conditions governing the eligibility of candidates, international supervision, and so forth. "You would have to be stupid to show your hand before even knowing if you have a partner. Negotiating means bargaining. It means give and take. You do not bargain alone. The important thing is that the negotiations should be open. Everybody will be able to uphold his position, including the possibility of a Palestinian state. But, in the final analysis, the solution will obviously have to result from agreement between the two sides."

The reason why Mr Rabin criticizes—politely—U.S. Secretary of State Jim Baker is that in his 22 May speech he "made the mistake of discussing the final outcome of the negotiations at this stage" by calling on Jerusalem to abandon its dream of a "Greater Israel." "The current

problem," he said, "is not that of concluding the peace process but of starting it." However, in general, Mr Rabin said that he is encouraged by U.S. policy. He appreciates the fact that the Bush administration "gave a favorable welcome to the Israeli initiative." Even the official dialogue between Washington and the PLO does not really worry it. "The Americans are trying to find partners for peace among the Palestinians in the territories and to enable them to make decisions without fear."

Europe does not find very much favor in his eyes. "Oh," Mr Rabin sighed, "if only Europe could move closer to the U.S. position! The Americans are not trying to impose a solution on us. They know that it will have to come from the parties in the conflict. They are not treating us like children, but as a sovereign state." On Monday, the Israeli defense minister was received by Mr Rocard. "The atmosphere was good. But I will not pretend that we reached agreement. I simply tried to explain my position."

One thing is certain: According to Mr Rabin, diplomatic flexibility goes hand in hand with a firm stance in the territories. "Each time our army has deliberately adopted a lower profile on the West Bank and in Gaza, it has been wrongly seen as a sign of weakness and the hard core of extremists has taken advantage of it to step up the violence. Stones and Molotov cocktails will not make us retreat one millimeter. We are used to wars of attrition. We waged one for 1,000 days (on the Egyptian front until August 1970) [LE MONDE editor's note]. The Palestinians must choose between violence and negotiations.

Shamir Will 'Soon Resume' Meeting Palestinians

TA1406170789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will soon resume his meetings with notables from the territories, in an attempt to monitor the moods there toward the implementation of the first stage of the political initiative. These remarks were made by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the Prime Minister's Office director general, in a meeting with the correspondents of territories affairs. Here is our correspondent Arye G[illegible]:

[Begin recording] [Gus] Mr Shamir will soon—the Prime Minister's Office director general does not say when—resume meetings with notables from the territories. This is the beginning of the implementation of the first stage: Reaching an understanding with those who will participate in the implementation of the government initiative.

[Ben-Aharon] We want to reach a certain minimum amount of understanding and agreement with the people with whom we will have to implement this initiative. Meaning, a certain representation of the Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, who would be able to agree to it in principle. They do not have to commit themselves to anything. They should, however, accept the attitude, the logic behind this initiative in which we have in fact diverted from the Camp David accords. We are proposing to hold elections at the outset of the process so as to have an authorized representative delegation to make the plan real. Before we launch the whole process, however, we want to make sure that we do have someone to talk to.

[Gus] Ben-Aharon did not dismiss the possibility that the prime minister would also meet with Palestinian notables from East Jerusalem, if only to make it clear to them that they will not be a part of the political arrangement. Ben-Aharon clarified this issue saying that there are no U.S. pressures regarding the notables from East Jerusalem, nor on the contents. The Americans say: Do not lock the doors on the possibilities. Israel replies: There will never be an alien entity west of the Jordan River.

Many unknown factors exist in the peace initiative. Its advantages are, nonetheless, already showing. The first point of advantage is that it is the first time that Israel has presented a political plan.

[Ben-Aharon] This very act by the Israeli Government has great advantages to it. We forced the opposite side—in the largest possible meaning of the word; not only our partners for the agreement, but also the world about us that supports this or the other side, and mainly those who support the Arab side—to face an Israeli political initiative.

[Gus] Another advantage is the fact that the initiative received a favorable welcome in the United States. The initiative is not closing the door to future options, and finally, it enables Israel to counter the claim that only the PLO could help the residents of the territories. The initiative is leading to a plan that aims at providing the answers for the interests of the Palestinian residents themselves. [end recording]

Editorial on Meetings

TA1506152589 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jun 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Searching for Illusions"]

[Text] Yesterday Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Israeli prime minister's office, again spoke of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's intention of meeting Palestinian notables from the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the aim of convincing them to bless "his plan." This plan calls for holding elections in the occupied territories ultimately leading to autonomy as stipulated in the Camp David accords, or even less than this.

This intention by Shamir is neither new nor surprising to anyone who follows and watches events in the Israeli domestic arena, including the state of discord even in the ranks of the hawks who see in Shamir's plan—despite its absurdity and short-sightedness—a danger that threatens Israel's security. Moreover, the international pressures which these days are being exerted on Israel's leaders

with the aim of inducing them to put forward realistic plans that respond to the requirements of peace accepted by the Arabs and the Palestinians, have forced Shamir to raise the level of his moves and contacts in order to find "buyers" for his old ideas and plans in a bid to ease the pressures and unbind the yoke of international isolation from the necks of Israel's leaders.

Shamir's upcoming meetings, or his expected "summons" to Palestinian notables to meet with him and hear his ideas, are an extension of the same meetings that Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, and Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held before him. The people who arranged those meetings failed to coopt any Palestinian whom they had forced to meet with them.

If Shamir has nothing new in his plans and ideas, what is the purpose of talking with him? And what benefit can Shamir reap from these meetings as long as he is aware that the Palestinians whom he will summon will not back down one bit from the firm positions expressed by the Palestinian peace strategy and adopted by the Casablanca summit. These positions have accepted the requirements of peace represented in UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which constitute the basis of any settlement in the region.

Shamir's efforts to look for Palestinians who sanction his ideas is no more than an attempt to search for illusions because there is no one in the Palestinian arena, whether inside or outside [the occupied territories], who will accept less than an independent Palestinian state. This is something which Shamir rejects and gets nauseated from hearing about it.

Any settlement in the region cannot possibly be achieved through fragmentary ideas and outdated plans. A durable and comprehensive solution can only come through the convocation of an international conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and by accepting the ideas which the world has accepted and on which all the countries of the world are unanimous, with the exception of Israel.

Soviet Editor Cited on 'Normal Relations'

TA1506070889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Interview with Vitaliy Korotich, visiting editor in chief of OGONEK, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor; time and place not given—recorded in English; questions, answers translated into Hebrew]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr Korotich.

[Korotich] Good morning.

[Friedman] Mr Korotich, we hear much about what glasnost is doing inside the USSR, but what new political approach does Glasnost bring to the Middle East? It's true that we see many Soviet officials here, journalists, but is there any real change in Soviet policies toward the Middle East?

[Korotich] I think, first of all, that the flood of Soviet people to Israel is very important because now we have more and more people who are guests of Israel, who are writing about this, and making interviews with you people, and our best known actors are traveling in Israel. I think this people-to-people diplomacy is very important. From this point, this people-to-people diplomacy start should be between leaders because I spoke with your politicians, who told me about very friendly talks they had with Soviet leaders personally. I think that this is the beginning of a process. Many times I heard about the American so-called ping-pong diplomacy, which normalized their relations with China. I think that now we are close to normal relations. Of course, the Palestinian question is standing in the way, but now we will find a way for solving it.

[Mardor] Mr Korotich, a different question with your permission. What can you tell us about the anti-Semitic movement in the USSR. Is it that strong?

[Kototich] You see, anti-Semitic movements always were part of the big chauvinistic-conservative movements. I can say that Soviet anti-Semites look like all other anti-Semites on this earth because the Soviet bureaucracy wants to use them—Soviet Jews—as the source of the troubles in our country.

[Mardor] Would you say it is dangerous for the Jews right now?

[Korotich] I think not. I think it's not a real danger, such as pogroms or something, but it is the danger of hatred. You see, it is the danger of disinformation; it's a danger of crowds with sticks who are making meetings. It touches not only Jews. I once, in my meeting with (Pamyat) Society destroyed shouting that I am paid from Tel Aviv. I want to see who is this gentleman. They make demonstrations against Soviet television, the (Pamyat) Society, where they feel more Jews than they like, shouting that that's not television, that's Tel Avivision. You see such people who have not enough courage to make something real, to make deeds, to make events, to kill somebody; but they destroyed the atmosphere. They did many of terrible things destroying the atmosphere.

[Mardor—in Hebrew] Korotich added that he is fighting for free emigration from the USSR so that each person will have the right to come and go as he wishes and believes that more and more people will have dual citizenship in the near future.

[Friedman] Mr Korotich, I thank you very much. I would just like to ask you one last short question. Do you already have a headline for your report on Israel when you go back?

[Korotich] I don't know, but now I want to start from the interviews with leading Israelis, and headlines I did not think about. But for me it's the longest trip, and one of the most important trips for me. I think that we'll publish it and my feeling to your people will be very friendly. Now I know about the contents of this article, and about the headline I will invent something in the last time.

[Korotich] Mr Vitaliy Korotich, we thank you very much.

[Korotich] Thank you so much.

Dan Meridor Leaves for Washington 15 Jun

TA1506044289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Minister Dan Meridor left last night for Washington and will confer with Secretary of State Baker tomorrow. On the eve of his departure Meridor conferred with Foreign Minister Arens.

Minister Meridor told our correspondent Arye Golan last night that his trip does not involve introducing changes to Israel's peace initiative in the spirit of the demands by Ministers Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi. The intention is to make clear to Baker that the U.S. dialogue with the PLO is slowing the peace initiative.

Commentary Says U.S. Foiling Uprising Solution

TA1106115089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jun 89 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "The Whole Army Is a Mitzna'"]

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna' is tired of commanding the quelling of the intifadah [uprising]. He asked to be relieved of his duty, and in 3 months from now the settlers will welcome his successor—Matan Vilna'i or Moshe Bar-Kokhba—with bread and water, and a political sermon about Greater Israel. The next morning they will wake up to realize that there is nothing new under the sun rising on the Hebron hills.

Mitzna' played a positive role in the Central Command. He added a human touch to the spearhead. Soldiers saw him as a reminder of human dignity and respect for the law. The moderates among them learned from him that in a democracy the majority's will should be respected and orders carried out. The outgoing general caused more damage to the criminal elements among those refusing service in the territories than the patriots who defended the wholeness of the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] framework with pompous speeches.

The prime minister's entourage, the Greater Israel Knesset members, and the settlers found him indirectly working to their advantage. Despite himself, Mitzna' provided them with the sweet and false illusion that had he been removed, the intifadah would have crumbled under a single military blow, and be gone forever. They described him as a soft officer, too human, and striving to please the Arabs. He served as a very convenient target.

Now, a new general will be appointed, and it will become apparent that the whole army is a Mitzna'. It will be revealed that Vilna'i and Bar-Kokhba have no tricks up their sleeves. Nor do they have an original idea how to quell the intifadah with a tougher military fist than the one used so far. Should they propose such a move, the United States would foil it, and the service-refusing circles would grow larger. Only then Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Levinger, who put their trust in an imaginary military move, will realize that the success of the intifadah is not due to an accidental human error personified by Gen Mitzna'. It is the Americans who are holding off the brutal solution suggested as the nationalistic miracle cure that would eliminate the intifadah.

Indeed, the United States has again raised its hand and foiled yet another UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its deeds in the territories. Still, several more Kifl Harith style riots with a killed girl and a deceased donkey, and a prime minister who holds a positive view of Jewish riots against Palestinians in Ashqelon and Ashdod, will bring this hand back into its pocket. Levinger can afford to not care about those Gentiles in the White House. Shamir, however, knows very well that his government might have a good reason to regret some of its more extreme elements' constant leashing out at Mitzna', the Supreme Court, and State Attorney Dorit Beinish—the harsh vocal element of a system that aims at dangerously lowering the humaneness of the means employed against the intifadah.

As a rule, it is easy for the settlers and the Likud extremists to present an incomplete picture, alleging that the source of all evil is the Israeli Government, officials, and IDF officers' hesitant stand. They happen to be in love with their self-deceit. After all, the problem in quelling the intifadah is not Mitzna'; it is James Baker. He is the one who calls on Israel to abandon the mirage of a Greater Israel, and stop the settlement drive as it only increases friction and raises the level of dispute. The difficulty in putting an end to the bottle-and-rock war does not amount to the quality of the bullet used by the IDF soldiers, rather it is due (not completely, but to a large extent) to the entire U.S. concept of the intifadah, the peace initiative, the settlements, and the nationalistic dreams as a single issue.

To drive the point home, the Americans enlisted a self-proclaimed friend of Israel, Dan Quayle. In a long interview with Wolf Blitzer of THE JERUSALEM POST last weekend, Quayle said: "Do not even mention new settlements in the West Bank." So now everyone will

wait 48 hours for a clarification, an apology, a tongue-in-cheek retraction, and someone will explain that Quayle is merely a "cog" in huge decisionmaking machine. Yet any diplomat will realize that the vice president acts in cahoots with the President, and in accordance with working papers prepared by the State Department and the National Security Council. This is the important thing.

From the point of view of the nationalists in the Likud there is also a problem in that they cannot argue that the U.S. Administration has been possessed by an anti-Israeli demon. After all, Jerusalem knows that Baker has been trying to convince the Palestinians to embrace Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin's peace initiative, and that Israel has managed to garner the signatures of 92 senators only because the White House is amenable to the idea of elections in the territories. Nevertheless, the Bush administration strongly objects to the fantasy of Eretz Yisra'el, additional settlements, or the brutalization of the means to combat the intifadah.

Bush, Quayle, Baker, and John Kelly put the damper on things, they are so frustrating, and maybe—as the extremists in Israel would have it—they are the true villains. Shamir understands this. Levinger could not care less. Both find it far easier to put the blame on Mitzna'. After all, the goyim are far away and immune, while Mitzna' is here, within earshot. He is easy prey. Perhaps only voluntary retirement will show those hankering after Shamir and Levinger who really puts the brakes on the false military solution to the intifadah, and how this is connected to stemming the settlement drive, and adopting the political solution as an alternative.

Commentary Sees U.S.'Balancing' Mideast Policy

TA1206142689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jun 89 p 7

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "A Red Carpet for 'Arafat"]

[Text] Despite the failure of the last round of talks in Tunis between the U.S. delegation headed by Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, and the PLO delegation headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the American-Palestinian script and its consequences to Israel are clear: The Americans have started rolling out the red carpet for 'Arafat's visit to the United States.

As far as Secretary of State Baker is concerned, the Palestinians are preparing the ground for them, finally revoking the Palestinian covenant—which is the price for 'Arafat's visit to Washington. Israel is trying to avert this verdict by asking the United States for additional time "to quell the intifadah [uprising]." This time, Israel is offering to employ an iron fist against the "instigating" elements among the settlers. President Herzog mitigated the sentences of the members of the Jewish underground to prepare public opinion for this move. There is an increasing number of signs indicating that drastic steps against the Palestinians are planned, aiming to "balance" the steps planned against the settlers.

The Americans are far from buying this "package deal," and in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] not everyone is thrilled by these developments. Some fear that in this planned escalation, the IDF will once again act the "scapegoat." The request filed by 'Amram Mitzna' to "leave for studies" is understandable given this background. The main fear is that burdening the IDF with the struggle against the intifadah might damage its position as the "people's army."

The Washington senators' letter also aimed at creating an uncomfortable atmosphere for the PLO, and at deterring the administration from its more and more clear intention.

Much has already been said about Baker's speech at the AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] convention. His reverberating remark that Israel must abandon the dream of Greater Israel was, for many, the main point of the address. The severity of his remarks in this case, however, is not in the phrasing—the remarks may have been made before—rather, it results from the structure of the whole speech. **Baker was very cautious in balancing his remarks to Israel and the Arabs, specifically the PLO.**

The level of balance clearly stands out in these well-calculated rhetorics: "To Israel I say: Now is the time to abandon once and for all the unrealistic vision of a Greater Israel. And to the Palestinians I say: Now is the time to talk peace with a single voice...amend the Palestinian covenant...."

This means that the United States is opening a new era of "balance," and that Israel is losing its preferential status in Washington. When the friends of Israel started screaming to high heaven, the State Department played the naive and said: "What is the matter? The speech was perfectly balanced...." But it is just this **balance** that is the problem. Israel has never been given balanced treatment in Washington; it has always been the preferred party. The process of "balance" might bring a U.S. acceptance of a Palestinian state side-by-side with Israel, and even before that a willingness to receive 'Arafat in Washington. At this stage, when a breakthrough is conditioned by critical changes in the preceptions of the Israeli right-wing, the changes in attitude toward the PLO cannot be rushed, but their turn will also come.

If Baker's speech was viewed gravely in Israel for its structure, Bush's letter to the participants of the Casablanca summit should worry Jerusalem for its context. Jerusalem preferred to ignore the latter. They still find it hard to swallow Baker's remarks. The U.S. President urged the Arab states heads to adopt the Palestinian peace plan—no less!

The Americans maintained tight contacts with the participants of the Casablanca summit and reported to them on the talks Foreign Minister Arens and Defense Minister Rabin held in Washington. It becomes apparent that their perceptions of the Rabin-Shamir election plan are closer to those held by the PLO than to those the Israelis maintain.

The United States calls for a clear link between the election plan and the form taken by the permanent arrangement. The United States will not forego the inclusion of East Jerusalem residents in the election process. The United States also demands that 'Arafat's supporters be allowed to conduct an election campaign, complete with slogans and political rallies—on condition that they are not utilized for incitement purposes, but will be compatible with the decisions adopted by the Palestinian National Council in Algeria.

To enable the creation of an atmosphere amenable to elections, the IDF will have to confine itself to barracks.

Anyone wishing to could have found the initial signs of this development in the funeral arrangements of 'Umar al-Qasim, the security prisoner, last week. 'Umar al-Qasim was considered a member of the military headquarters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. In other words he represented the PLO both from the "outside" and from the "inside." This suits the U.S. conception of the connection between the leadership of the uprising in the territories and the PLO leadership "outside."

The Israeli security forces did not interfere during the funeral, which was a political demonstration of sorts. The "strike forces" gained their first licensed appearance—and this constitutes a form of Israeli recognition, which follows the meetings held by Brigadier General Shayke Erez with persons whose ties to the "strike forces" in Samaria are known. Therefore, the implications of the discipline shown by the "strike forces" at Al-Qasim's funeral span far beyond this specific funeral.

One must remember that the head of the Palestinian delegation that is holding a dialogue with the United States belongs to the DFLP. This man, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, is Nayif Hawatimah's deputy, and it is difficult not to connect the DFLP's demonstration in East Jerusalem and its deep involvement in the dialogue with the United States.

This American approach does not comply with one of the main suppositions of the Rabin-Shamir plan; namely, if the Arabs were to reject the plan, Israel would then be able to quell the intifadah decisively, without world public opinion being able to intervene, as Israel had "suggested" a peace plan the Arabs had rejected.

The defense minister spelled things out quite clearly, prior to his departure for the United States, but the U.S. Administration rejected his approach, and said Israel must take steps to improve the atmosphere in the territories, not steps that would only exacerbate tensions. Baker's speech to the AIPAC stressed the need for creating an atmosphere of calm in the territories—which is not exactly "squashing the intifadah." On the contrary, strong ties are forming between the United States and the intifadah's leadership.

The United States is pressuring the PLO as well as Israel. Everyone was so busy listening to what the Arabs had to say at the Casablanca summit, that they failed to notice how, in fact, the United States was involved in formulating the summit's decisions and consolidating its "verbal agreements" that were partly put into writing as "secret decisions." One can easily discover the intent and direction of the American pressure if one compares the drafts drawn up by the Palestinians to the final prepared documents. The original Palestinian draft categorically rejected "**the Israeli Government's plan** to hold elections under the shadow of occupation, in order to strike at the intifadah, make a forgery of the will of the Palestinian people, and circumvent the PLO." The final agreed-upon decisions reiterate the Palestinian positions, but omit any specific reference to the summit's rejection of the Shamir plan.

The United States made no secret of their desire, that the summit allow the PLO free reign to pursue contacts with Israel, and indeed, the secret decisions stipulate that the Arab world will accept anything the Palestinians decide to be in their own best interests.

It should be made clear that in its heart of hearts, the PLO is not thrilled to conduct elections at a time when feelings in the territories are steadily becoming more and more extreme, and the positions held by the Hamas [Islamic resistance movement] and the rejectionist organizations are gaining more and more popularity. The PLO is willing to examine the Israeli peace plan, if only to maintain the faintest thread of a dialogue with Israel, and improve its standing with the United States—and so it will not be blamed if the plan falls through.

Trade Deficit Totalled $314 Million in May

TA1206125689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jun 89 p 7

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Israel's trade deficit totalled $314 million last month, as imports continued growing despite the apparent recession. Exports failed to show signs of the long-awaited breakthrough.

According to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the country exported $823m. [$823 million] worth of goods in May while imports totalled $1.137 billion. The bureau said that after adjusting for seasonal factors the monthly average trade deficit for the last two months was 19 percent larger than in February and March.

The bureau added that average exports for April and May were 3.4 percent below their level for the previous two months. Imports rose by 3.6 percent during the same period.

The trade gap for the first five months of the year totalled $1.144b. [$1.144 billion] compared to $1.093b. in the same period of 1988, an increase of 4.7 percent.

Exports still failed to register the increase that has been expected since January's devaluation of the shekel. They totalled $4.1b. in the January-May period, a rise of only 2.5 percent over the same period in 1988.

Imports from January through May reached $5.2b., up a modest 3 percent from their level during the first five months of 1988.

The bureau said imports of consumer goods increased 5 percent in the last two months, compared to their level in February and March, including a rise of 6 percent in imports of consumer durables. But for the first five months of the year, imports of consumer goods totalled $540m., down 13 percent from the year-earlier period.

Imports of production inputs, which generally fall during economic slowdowns, continued rising in the last two months, the figures showed. In April and May, their average level was $510m., about 5 percent higher than in the previous two months. In the first five months of this year, imports of production inputs totalled $4.3b., an increase of 9.3 percent over January-May 1988.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, were still lagging behind expectations, the figures showed. These exports averaged $519m. in the last two months, slightly less than in February and March.

6 Gaza Strip Arabs Injured in Stoning Incident

TA1406184789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Six Gaza Strip residents were wounded in a stoning incident at about 1900 tonight. Most of the injuries are slight. The six were driving southward in three vehicles bearing Gaza license plates, and were in the vicinity of Ashqelon when their cars were stoned. One of the wounded was transferred with a head injury to a hospital in Ashqelon. It has been learned that he will be released tonight.

Ashqelon police commander Dani Ronen has said that eyewitnesses had seen stones being thrown from a private Subaru car driving near Kefar Silver at the three cars in which the Gazans were riding. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that the police are searching for the escaping vehicle.

In the territories, two Molotov cocktails were thrown this evening at a minibus and a car belonging to Arabs south of Hebron. The firebombs missed, no damage was caused, and there were no casualties.

Nusaybah's Press Office in East Jerusalem Closed

TA1506103189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The police today closed Sari Nusaybah's press office in East Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the office was closed for 2 years under an order issued by the commander of the Central Command.

Our correspondent was told that the office was closed because of subversive activities there, which included encouraging the uprising in the territories and support for the PLO, especially Fatah.

Nusaybah Denies PLO Contacts

TA1506151489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Responding to the decision to shut down his press office in East Jerusalem, Sari Nusaybah maintained that it is a news bureau that has no connection to the PLO or Fatah. Speaking to our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum, Nusaybah pointed out that as a self-employed individual, and as a journalist, he is aware of events and merely describes them in the papers.

Nusaybah's press office was closed for 2 years by order of the commander of the Central Command for subversive activity. This activity includes, among other things, support and encouragement for the uprising and for the PLO—particularly Fatah—as well as activity harmful to security.

Giv'ati Soldiers Sentenced for 'Harassing' Gazan

TA1506145889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The military court has just sentenced three Giv'ati Brigade soldiers who were found guilty of harassing Gaza resident Hani al-Shani. The soldiers received sentences of 9 months in jail and 9 months suspended sentence. A fourth defendant was sentenced to 6 months in jail plus 6 months suspended sentence. This is reported by our correspondent Ya'aqov Balselboim.

Update on Incidents in Territories 14 Jun

TA1506104389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the West Bank yesterday, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uprooted trees at Tulkarm and at Shuwaykah. Military sources said 80 trees were uprooted from roadsides where assailants

hurled rocks and petrol bombs at Israeli military and civilian vehicles. Palestinians said 260 citrus trees had been uprooted: 120 at Tulkarm, and 140 at Shuwaykah.

According to figures kept by the Arab Studies Society in East Jerusalem, a total of 38,345 trees have been uprooted by the IDF during the uprising, most of them olive trees.

Fresh overnight raids were reported on villages in the Nabulus and Tulkarm area. Troops made arrests and forced residents to remove Palestinian flags and to paint over nationalist graffiti.

Palestinians said that during a raid for the fourth consecutive day on Kafr Jammal, near Tulkarm, soldiers entered in a commandeered BMW car with Ramallah licence plates, arrested Bassam Araf 'Ali, 20, and shut him in the trunk of the car. Military sources said they had no reports of a raid at Kafr Jammal on Tuesday night, and that they would investigate the allegations if a complaint was received from the youth's family.

Extensive protests and clashes were reported Tuesday night in Nabulus, in the aftermath of the demolition of a home and the sealing of four others. Palestinians described the clashes as the worst in several months, but despite heavy shooting by soldiers, no one was wounded.

Palestinians in Nabulus said that a settler whose car was stoned in the Rafidiyah neighbourhood smashed the windows of an adjacent home and fired at its owner, 'Umar Tbaylah, though there were no casualties.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 15 June in a report on page five by Mikhal Qedem, Oren Kohen, Uri Sharon, Aharon Orgad, and Irit Vered adds that "relative quiet was maintained throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday. Arab sources reported that two al-Shaja'iyah residents were wouned by rubber bullets. The Gaza Strip was not under curfew yesterday, and shops were open until late. Thousands of workers left for their jobs in Israel, and tens of thousands of students continued their annual exams. It was peaceful in the West Bank as well, and virtually no violent incidents were reported. The curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp entered its third consecutive day, and Arab sources reported 'short confrontations between residents and army forces.' Burning tires and stone roadblocks were placed at the entrance to the Qalandiyah refugee camp. The army scattered the demonstrators. Arab sources reported that 'three people were wounded in the village of Yabrud, in the Ramallah District, during an initiated operation by the IDF.' The sources claimed that 14-year-old Manal 'Isa 'Amr was hit by a bullet in the chest, while her brother Khalid was injured in the leg. Official military sources reported 'that only one person was injured in Yabrud.'"

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 15 June reports that "stones were thrown at an Egged bus and spikes were found on the road near Qiryat Arba'. In another incident the windshield of a car belonging to the regional council was smashed by a flying stone near al-Zahiriyah."]

King's Departure, Cairo Arrival Noted

JN1506125489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Cairo this morning to lead Jordan's delegation to meetings of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council which begin in Alexandria this evening and will last 3 days. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this morning and was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn, members of the Hashemite household, ranking state officials, other civilian and military officials, the Iraqi ambassador, and the Egyptian charge d'affairs in Amman.

Jordan's delegation to the conference is composed of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, special adviser, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, state minister for cabinet affairs, and the ministers of justice and planning.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan gave the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn as regent throughout his stay abroad.

Prime Minister Views ACC Meeting, Other Issues

JN1406201389 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has said that the Arab Cooperation Council, the ACC, is not a bloc but a grouping of its four member nations beneficial to the entire Arab world. In an interview with AL-HAWADITH magazine to be published tomorrow, the prime minister said the four countries seek to achieve economic integration and to reduce their dependence on imports. He noted that the four countries have great potentialities and can achieve a lot if they base their cooperation on mutual interests.

He voiced confidence that Jordan will surmount the present difficulties as it had always done in the past. The prime minister said parliamentary elections will be held before the end of this year and the next parliament will have a basic role in the decisionmaking process.

He described the U.S. Administration Middle East peace orientation as positive and good, and said he believes President George Bush will deal fairly with the problems of the region.

He also described Jordanian-Soviet relations as very good, adding that Moscow's attitude is satisfactory and good. He reiterated that the international conference is the sole way to resolve the Palestinian problem.

Al-Qasim Makes Statement, Departs for Cairo

JN1406135689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and Jordanian foreign minister, has affirmed to our station that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit to be held in Alexandria has special importance since it is the first since the establishment of this council. It also comes after the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca.

Al-Qasim's statement was made before his departure from Amman to Egypt accompanying Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir to participate in the preparatory meetings of the summit. Al-Qasim said that during the summit the secretary general of the ACC will be assigned. He is Egypt's candidate. Al-Qasim explained that the prime ministers will set the agenda and refer it to the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and North Yemen for approval.

Al-Qasim adds that this agenda contains the bases of the council's measures and the agreement on the council's privileges and immunities, in addition to issuing a decision on the movement and employment of the citizens of the council's countries. The legal and judicial cooperation agreement between the member countries will be approved. A law will be enacted on air transportation and civil aviation and another law on coordination and cooperation among foreign ministries in the member countries.

Al-Qasim said that clearly the leaders of the four countries will discuss other issues on both the Arab and international levels, especially concerning the developments in Lebanon and supporting Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis through the higher committee formed by the emergency Arab summit.

Al-Qasim added that they will also discuss developments in the Palestine question and the efforts to reach a permanent peace between Iraq and Iran through Security Council Resolution 598 and holding direct negotiations which will inevitably produce a peace treaty between the two neighboring countries.

Expresses Support for PLO

JN1506075589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council ended in Cairo last night. [passage omitted]

In statements to Jordanian reporters following the meeting, Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said: The agenda to be presented to the Supreme Council was endorsed after certain amendments were made and a new item added concerning the

ACC's general secretary. It is now certain that Egypt's candidate, Dr Hilmi Nammar, will be appointed general secretary. Also, Iraq's nomination of Hisham Hasan Tawfiq to the post of assistant secretary general was approved. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim also said: When we in the ACC discuss any joint matter—such as supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the new Palestinian direction that resulted from the Palestine National Council session in Algiers and President 'Arafat's speeches in the United Nations and the recent Arab summit—we try to improve on what existed previously.

Al-Qasim said that Jordan's position toward peace proposals is to support the PLO in proposal it raises. He said: Jordan supports the Palestinian rights through the PLO since it is the body authorized and qualified to make express the policy that will result in the restoration of Palestinian rights. Our objective is to help the PLO to achieve that goal.

Answering a question on Jordan's position on holding elections [in the occupied territories], al-Qasim asserted: We support whatever the PLO declares and believes to be the way to achieve Palestinian political rights.

CBJ Governor Praises King Husayn's Visit

JN1406162389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn paid a visit to the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] today accompanied by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. [passage omitted]

In a statement to [PETRA]-Jordanian News Agency, CBJ Governor Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi expressed the happiness and pride of the bank's staff in this noble visit which gave the bank employees encouragement, support, and great hopes. He said that during the visit His Majesty King Husayn drew attention in particular to maintaining fully Jordan's credibility in dealing with external funding sources, especially the ones which have consistently helped Jordan and extended financial aid and various forms of funding and loans. He said that his majesty also stressed Jordan's eagerness to honor its foreign obligations based on honest dealing and to adhere to its full responsibility toward the Jordanian currency in circulation and toward the citizens carrying it, as well as the kinfolk in the occupied territories who expressed confidence in continuing to deal with this currency and in the economic pillars supporting and maintaining it. [passage omitted]

'Urgent Agenda' Seen for Central Bank President

JN1106061289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 89 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" column by Dr Fahd Al-Fanik: "An Agenda for the Central Bank"]

[Text] Amman—In a sporting spirit I congratulate Dr. Sai'd al-Nabulsi for his return to the helm of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), which he ran between 1973 to 1985. I sincerely wish him success in accomplishing the difficult mission he was called upon by the new government to accomplish. After all the gainer from his success, and the loser from his failure is the national economy at large.

I did, however, take an exception toward his return to the CBJ, and I expressed my point of view in a civilised manner, through the official channels, prior to the decision. But since I was overruled, and since the governor did take charge of his responsibilities at this sensitive point in time, it is only fair to him as a person, and to the CBJ as an institution to be given the chance to act freely and succeed, and to receive all the possible support without any undue hindrance.

In front of the Central Bank lies numerous tasks that cannot wait any longer, and must be resolved one way or another, sooner than later, because they do not essentially need too much research and detailed information. The decision is a matter of policy or line of thinking, with of course some calculations of the benefits and costs that are involved in each option.

The urgent agenda we set in front of the new governor includes:

1. The JD [Jordanian dinar] exchange rate—should it be fixed or flexible, should it be pegged to the dollar or to a basket of foreign currencies, would the basket be that of the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) or a special basket tailored to the needs of Jordan and reflecting the shares of its trade and financial relations with the world. What would be the contents of such a basket, the weight of each component, and the limits of allowed flunctuation above and below the basket value. And finally, how the CBJ will make the exchange rate respond to inflation rate, currently running at 14 per cent p.a. [per annum] as estimated by the experts of the International Montary Fund (IMF).

2. Interest rates on the JD—Will interest continue to be floated to find its adequate level in the market, or will the CBJ fix interest rates? If CBJ is interested in fixing interest rates on all deposits and credit facilities, will it set ceilings i.e., maximum levels, or floors, i.e., minimum levels? In other words, is the CBJ now for raising the rates, to strengthen the JD and combat capital flight and hinder dollarisation, or for lowering the rates to encourage investment in marginal projects? In general will the real interest rate on the JD be positive or negative, and in what manner will the interest rate take inflation into account?

3. Will the moneychangers be reinstated and allowed back to business as usual, and will a new law be issued to regulate moneychanging activities, and replace the cancelled law, or will the subject be kept on hold until after we recover stability and confidence? If the moneychangers are about to be reintroduced to the market, what

delays the release of their funds and books, and the collection of their rights and the discharge of their liabilities towards ordinary citizen who are waiting since four months?

4. What is the CBJ plan to put banks back into order and under control? It is common knowledge that some banks do not take law and regulations seriously, and that the Central Bank is appeasing them.

5. How would the CBJ deal with the black market that deals openly in foreign exchange at 8 to 10 per cent higher than the official rates and until when that market will be allowed to attract a major chunk of the country's receipts in foreign exchange? Will the CBJ think of economic tools or tough measures, or will it continue to ignore the situation as it if does not exist?

6. The banks credit—How will the ceiling be defined, and how the priorities will be determined? Will the CBJ try to act independently from the economic and fiscal policies and the corrective programme, or as a part of the economic team, and in full coordiantion with it?

We have no doubt that these and other issues are in the mind of the new management in the Central Bank. We hope that clear and convincing positions towards these issues will be reached very soon, in order to restore a good level of confidence and certainty.

Finance Minister Discusses Economy, IMF Role

JN1406081589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 89 p 6

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan expects to meet about $900 million in foreign exchange payments in 1989 with financial assistance from Arab countries, new loans, mostly, from debt rescheduling, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said Tuesday.

"There will be a foreign exchange shortage in 1989 amounting to about $900 million and plans have been made to cover it," Jardanah was quoted as saying by REUTERS.

The news agency Monday erroneously quoted the minister as saying Jordan faced deficit of $900 million. The JORDAN TIMES carried part of the story in its Tuesday [13 June] edition.

The minister told REUTERS Tuesday that of the total foreign exchange needed, "about $650 million will be from debt rescheduling and the rest will come from Arab aid and new concessionary loans. It is expected that the amount we will receive will exceed the gap."

The minister, addressing a gathering of Jordanian and Indian businessmen, said Monday that Jordan's economic and financial difficulties should be viewed against the background of the recession in the region and developments in the Gulf and voiced confidence that the Kingdom would overcome its present difficulties.

"I am confident that the financial needs... will be certainly covered and there are good possibilities that the building of foreign reserves will take place at rates higher than what is envisaged in the adjustment programme," the minister said.

Following is the full text of the minister's address Monday:

Jordan has been experiencing economic and financial difficulties since 1985. These difficulties should be viewed against the background of prolonged recession in the region which, together with other developments, such as the Gulf war led to reduced flows of official aid, workers' remittances and contributed to a weakening of demand for Jordan's traditional exports of goods and services.

In spite of these adverse developments, the government continued to expand expenditures which led to a widening of the fiscal deficit. The magnitude of this deficit in 1987 was as follows: Overall deficit JD 298.1 million:
Percent to GDP: 25.2
Percent to current expenditure: 49.46

The deficit was initially financed by increased external commercial borrowing and, from 1987 by increased domestic bank borrowing. The resulting demand pressures, together with reduced external inflows, exerted pressures on the balance of payments and the exchange rate. By 1988, the situation had deteriorated significantly: Real GDP declined by 3.5 per cent; the budget deficit widened substantially and the exchange rate came under severe pressure.

Since June 1988, the Jordanian authorities have taken a number of measures to address the situation. These included a significant depreciation of the Jordan dinar, freezing of a large component of government expenditures and a tightening of monetary policy.

Towards the end of 1988, it became evident that, given the magnitude of economic and financial problems facing Jordan, domestic effort alone would not be sufficient to correct the underlying structural imbalances. Moreover, it began to be recognised that Jordan could not maintain orderly external financial relations without debt rescheduling.

Accordingly, the government decided to adopt a medium term strategy to address the internal and external financial imbalances through domestic effort and seeking international financial suport. Within that context a medium term (1989-1993) programme was adopted by the government in coperation with the IMF.

This programme is based on a comprehensive medium-term framework which aims at restoring and increasing the rate of economic growth in the context of relative price stability, and achieving a substantial improvement in the budget and balance of payments.

Among the major features of the programme are the following:

1) Additional fiscal measures for 1989 to produce savings in the budget deficit equivalent to 4.5 per cent of GDP on an annual basis.

2) A further reduction in the budget deficit equivalent to three per cent of GDP is to be attained in 1990. The government shall study the tax system to improve its elasticity. The government shall also consider to undertake concrete steps in 1990 for the introduction of a general consumption tax of the value added variety starting in 1991.

This programme will reduce deficit in the budget without external grants from about 24

of GDP in 1988 to 10

of GDP in 1990 and to six per cent including external grants.

3) The government intends to reinforce the budgetary measures by a tight credit policy. The increase in net domestic assets as a percentage of the initial money stock will be reduced from 14 per cent in 1988 to nine per cent in 1989, while net claims on the government will be reduced from 11 per cent to 5.5 per cent. Further reductions are to be achieved in 1990. Ceilings on banking system lending has been fixed.

4) The authorities intend to pursue a prudent debt managment policy. Limits and ceilings are placed on the contractions of new non-concessional public and publicly-guaranteed loans.

5) The rate of inflation is expected to decline from about 14

in 1989 to about seven per cent in 1993.

6) The medium term balance of payment objective is be build up the reserves gradually to cover three month imports (other than gold holdings) as well as to improve the current account from a deficit of six percent of GDP in 1988 to a balance position by 1993.

This strong adjustment programme would help to restore confidence in the economy and redress internal and external imbalances. However, it is basically a demand management approach and therefore the government intends to introduce a number of supply side policies and reforms to stimulate private sector and investment. Such measures will be supported by an adjustment loan from the World Bank. The bank has done extensive work on such policies and reforms and it is expected that an understanding on the new structure of incentives and tariffs would be reached soon.

Notwithstanding the strong adjustment effort implied in the programme substantial financing gaps would still exist. Viable financial plans to cover the gaps of 1989 and 1990 have been already agreed upon with the IMF. Under this plan the gaps will be covered through grants, new concessionary loans and debt relief in form of rescheduling. The management of the IMF has already approved a stand-by credit to Jordan and the board is expected to approve the loan by early July.

We have already approached the Paris Club for rescheduling debt service payment for 1989 and 1990, and also approached commerical creditors for the same purpose.

The World Bank and other donors are expected to provide concessionary loans to support the programme. In addition, the Arab countries have demonstrated their support to Jordan in its efforts to achieve the objectives of the adjustment programme.

We are certainly grateful for the understanding extended to Jordan by various donors countries. Such understanding is most helpful to enable Jordan achieve the objectives of the programme.

Let me in conclusion, say that I am confident that the financial gap I referred to previously will be certainly covered and there are good possibilities that the building of foreign reserves will take place at rates higher than what is envisaged in the adjustment programme.

3 Reported Killed in Israeli Air Raids

NC1406121089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1152 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Three people were martyred and two wounded as a result of the Israeli air raids today. The injured persons were taken to the Kamal Junblatt Hospital in al-Shuwayfat. The raiding planes destroyed a two-story building and bases belonging to the Palestine Liberation Front.

Antiaircraft guns of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] opened fire on the attacking planes. PSP officials also inspected the targeted area in which fires broke out and PSP firefighting teams extinguished the fires.

Palestinian Positions Hit

NC1406162589 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, June 14 (AFP)—Israeli jets attacked two positions held by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) near here Wednesday, killing three people and injuring two others, Palestinian sources reported.

Four fighter-bombers pounded the targets in two raids—coming less than 30 minutes apart—that shook the Lebanese capital and caused panic among motorists.

The planes caused heavy damage to positions held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF), the sources said. But a PFLP spokesman later denied that the organization, which has a base in the region, had been hit.

All three groups are part of the PLO umbrella, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, and are located in the mountainous Bshamun area, 10 kilometers (six miles) southeast of here. The region is under the overall control of the Progressive Socialist Party of Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

A Palestinian Liberation Front statement said the raid followed anti-Israeli attacks by the PLF and other Palestinian organizations and reiterated the group's intention to pursue "the struggle against the Zionist enemy in south Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Further on Raid

NC1406174589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Twice today between 1155 and 1210, eight Israeli warplanes raided positions of the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] in Bshamun.

According to a PLF military spokesman, the raids left three of its members martyred and a number of others wounded. The martyrs are Major Khalid Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim, commander of the PLF special unit on the mountain, and two of his companions. The injured persons were taken to the Kamal Junblatt Hospital.

The raids also destroyed a two-story building and PLF bases. The Israeli warplanes continued to fly over the area in the afternoon. They also carried out mock raids over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, the coast, and the mountain.

Release of Belgian Hostage Reportedly Imminent

NC1406164889 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Beirut, June 14 (AFP)—The Lebanese clandestine organization "Soldiers for the Right" which claimed the abduction of Belgian Doctor Jan Cools on May 21, 1988, in south Lebanon announced Wednesday it would release him.

In an Arabic typewritten statement delivered to a Western news agency, the organization said the decision was taken following athe mediation of the Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and in response to "repeated appeals from (Libyan leader) Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi."

But the organization gave no details on the date or place of Dr. Cools' announced release.

Further on Possible Release

NC1406175989 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Beirut, June 14 (AFP)—A shadow Lebanese group calling itself "Soldiers for the Right" said Wednesday it would release Belgian Doctor Jan Cools, kidnapped on May 21, 1988, in southern Lebanon.

In an Arabic typewritten statement delivered to a Western news agency, the organization said the decision was taken following the mediation of Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) and in response to "repeated appeals from (Libyan leader) Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

"We hope this positive initiative on our part will jump start the Western peoples' consciences in favor of causes of the oppressed, namely those of the Muslim Palestinian people who are subjected daily to death and destruction by Zionist criminals," the statement said.

But the organization gave no details on the date or place of Dr. Cools' announced release. The statement ended with a Koranic verse and was dated June 14, 1989.

The decision to release the 33-year-old physician was also made "in the context of good relations between the Belgian Socialist Party and the Arab and Muslim nation," the statement said.

Dr. Cools, who worked for the Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC) at the time of his abduction, is one of 23 Middle Eastern foreigners believed held in Lebanon, of whom seven are in the hands of the FRC.

He was abducted as he travelled from the al-Rashidiyah Palestinian refugee camp to the neighboring coastal city of Tyre, under the control of the pro-Syrian Lebanese Amal Shi'ite militia.

NORWAC meanwhile announced it was pleased that the "Soldiers for the Right" organization had expressed its willingness to release Dr. Cools.

"His abduction is surely a misunderstanding, for what good is served by kidnapping a doctor who worked for the Lebanese and Palestinian people?" Gina Desmedt, a Belgian NORWAC official, told AGENCE FRENCE-PRESSE.

She added that the announcement of his impending release was "a sign that Jan is alive and that there is hope."

Nasirite Leader on Release

NC1406192089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] According to an AFP report, an organization calling itself "the Soldiers of the Right" has announced it will release Belgian Doctor Jan Cools, who was kidnapped in May 1988, in response to an appeal by Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

We asked Belgian charge d'affaires in Lebanon Guibert Bioul about this. He stated that he has not received any information on the matter. However, he said that Vanloock, political director general at the Belgian Foreign Ministry [title as heard], visited Sidon last Monday as the personal envoy of the Belgian foreign minister, accompanied by the Norwegian charge d'affaires in Damascus. They met with Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd in a bid to secure Cools' release. Vanloock and the Norwegian diplomat then traveled from Sidon to B'abda [as heard], where they met with the Belgian charge d'affaires. Afterward, Vanloock returned to Brussels via Damascus to convey the results of his efforts on behalf of Dr Cools.

Interviewed by telephone by the Voice of Lebanon, Mustafa Sa'd affirmed that the atmosphere for the imminent release of the Belgian doctor is positive. He said his contacts with the parties concerned regarding Cools' release have yielded positive results, which will hopefully be crowned with his release. He urged all parties holding hostages to free them because the kidnapped people are not responsible for their governments' policies.

3 Iranian Battalions Said in Southern Suburb

NC1506060589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that three battalions of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards [IRG] entered the southern suburb during the past 3 days. The Iranian battalions came from al-Biqa' via the al-Shuf road under Syrian escort. They brought various types of heavy caliber weapons with them.

According to the information, the 3 battalions numbering 1,200 troops first assembled near the Khaldah Triangle next to the Syrian forces positions. Then one of the battalions left the area to deploy near the Iranian Embassy building in B'ir Hasan.

Foreign Ministry Official Assails U.S. Position

NC1406172389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting Foreign Ministry secretary-general, has described the U.S. position as biased and said it cannot be understood. Ambassador Sutaytiyah asked what developments have prompted Washington to take a sudden escalatory position at a time when U.S. diplomats are asking those concerned with the Lebanese crisis to adopt a realistic policy.

In an interview with the Voice of the People radio, Ambassador Sutaytiyah said this realistic policy requires that Washington support the Arab committee work and not take positions that could hamper the Arab endeavors. It also calls on the U.S. Administration to put pressure on Israel to withdraw without preconditions from the Lebanese territories, in implementation of UN Resolutions 425 and 426, as this is the key to resolving the Lebanese crisis.

NPO, Palestinians Reportedly Clash in Sidon

NC1406201789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] According to security sinformation from Sidon, Al-Hamzawi, a security police official in the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO], was hit in the leg during violent clashes between the NPO police and Palestinians this evening. The clashes centered around the al-Amerkan School traffic circle, the al-Ta'mir area, and the entrance to 'Ayn al-Hulwah. Reports indicate that four others were also injured, including Ghassan Shams al-Din, Zuhayr al-Rami, and a girl.

Security Force-17 is now making attempts to disengage the two parties. There have been reports that the Islamic group may intervene as a buffer force.

Al-Shar' Receives Arab League's Ibrahimi 14 Jun

JN1406204189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary-general and envoy of the Arab three-member committee on Lebanon. Discussion revolved around the results of Ibrahimi's contacts with Lebanese parties over the past 2 days.

Tunisian Parliamentarians Meet Counterparts

JN1406141889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] A round of talks was held today between the People's Assembly delegation led by Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies' delegation led by Slahiddine Baly, president of the Chamber and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] in the presence of Ahmad 'Isa, Syrian ambassador in Tunis; and Abdelhamid 'Ammar, Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the prominent current issues and the stands on these issues as well as some parliamentary issues, particularly the agenda of the fifth APU conference to be held in Abu Dhabi on 18 June.

The People's Assembly speaker valued Tunisia's pan-Arab stands in the service of the Arab issues. The People's Assembly speaker then presented a historical review of the struggle of our Arab people in Syria and their Arab trends and principles, particularly in the wake of the Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad and the subsequent victories.

Qaddurah then explained the Lebanese issue with all its dimensions and the legitimate entry of the Syrian forces into Lebanon to stop fighting among its sons, to confront the Israeli invasion, and to continue Syrian efforts and sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon's unity, independence, and security on the basis of national reconciliation. Qaddurah reiterated Syria's determination under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to continue struggle until our nation achieves its objectives of progress and liberation.

Slahiddine Baly, president of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies and chairman of the APU, expressed his pride and that of the accompanying delegation for visiting sisterly Syria which represents genuine and deep-rooted Arab qualities and values. He affirmed the need to strengthen relations and entrench bases of cooperation between the two sisterly states.

Baly touched on Tunisia's trends in the wake of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's assumption of power on the level of common Arab action. He affirmed the need to devote efforts to reinforce Arab unity and deepen bases of comprehensive rapprochement and Arab cooperation to confront challenges and dangers.

Baly said that the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies adheres to the trends of its political leadership on the need to continue earnest work with the Arabs and Syria to achieve solidarity and common view, to entrench Arab affiliation, and strengthen pan-Arab ties by promoting relations with Syria through the exchange of delegations, experiments, documents, experts, and all that can serve bilateral and national interests.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN1406142389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Slahiddine Baly, president of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and International Committee at the People's Assembly; the Syrian ambassador in Tunis; and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with ways to develop relations between the two sisterly states, Syria and Tunisia, in all fields. The talks also dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the importance of achieving Arab solidarity to confront decisive challenges and the common enemy.

Baly praised Syria's steadfastness under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad as it embodies the steadfastness of the Arab nation to regain its occupied territory and restore the usurped Palestinian rights.

Afghanistan

Rebel Groups Agree To Form 'Popular Government'

LD1406181989 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Esfahan, June 14, IRNA—The Iran-based eight-party Afghan coalition and the seven-party alliance in Pakistan have agreed in principle to form a popular government in their strife-torn homeland which will include all mujahidin groups, disclosed a coalition spokesman today.

It means that the interim government hastily assembled by the Pashto-speaking tribes in Peshawar, and which is still to find a foothold on Afghanistan for obvious reasons, will cease to exist once practical steps are taken for broad-based rule, said 'Ali Jan Zahedi [name as received].

Zahedi said the coalition and the alliance have issued a joint communique in this regard after five rounds of talks in Pakistan. The coalition delegation was headed by Muhammad Karim Khalili.

However, he rejected any negotiation with the Marxist Kabul regime as "contrary to the interests of Islam and the Afghan people."

On recent meddlings in Afghan affairs by some outsiders, Zahedi made it clear that none are entitled to take any decision on the future of that Muslim country, and the United States, Soviet Union, Pakistan or any other country cannot impose anything on Afghan people and mujahidin.

On Soviet interference, he said this has not been reduced by the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. "In fact Soviet forces have been replaced by missiles," he noted and called on Mikhail Gorbachev to be "more realistic" concerning Afghanistan.

However, said Zahedi, some positive changes were observed in the Soviet stance during talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, and that Moscow no longer insists on the survival of the puppet Kabul regime.

"We understand the U.N. is trying to implement the contents of the Geneva accord," he said in reference to the visit of U.N. envoys to Tehran.

Mojaddedi on Recognition, Jalalabad Siege, Aid

PM1306144889 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 10 Jun 89 p 7

[Interview with Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, "president of Muslim Afghanistan," by 'Umar Jastinyah; date, place, not given]

[Excerpts] [Jastinyah] Mr President, do you not believe that the delay in capturing Jalalabad weakens the credibility of the search for international recognition of the mujahidin government?

[Mojaddedi] Brother, the media did us more harm than good when they made an issue out of Jalalabad. They did not know that war entails ability, capabilities, sacrifice, and practical experience. We have not retreated a single inch since we besieged Jalalabad. We first besieged it from a distance of 90 km and now we are within 3-7 km. The areas around the city are under our full control and the city is still under our control. But what can we do in the face of the fully armed bunkers? Besides, 150,000 Muslims live in the city, and unless we calculate carefully, the Russian agents will sacrifice Muslims, exposing them to fire in the fighting in order to annihilate them. This is why we are trying to tighten the grip on the city, which has begun to collapse, and we will exert more pressure.

At the same time we are within sight of Khowst, another major Afghan city. All we need is little time, and I promise the city will be captured soon.

In Kabul we have completed our preparations for destroying the military zones around the city. We will begin comprehensive operations soon. It is now a matter of drawing up a working plan for the city in which 2 million Muslims live. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] With regard to the international context, why do you believe international recognition of the Afghan mujahidin government has been so late in coming?

[Mojaddedi] First, because of the government's inability to move into Afghanistan. Second, because of internal stability and security. But so far we have managed to move some ministries which have actually begun to perform their activities. We will complete the plan drawn up to that end within 2 weeks from now. But our voice is heard at the international level, and we have been granted a seat in the Islamic Conference Organization.

[Jastinyah] What about U.S.-Afghan relations and the delay in U.S. recognition?

[Mojaddedi] Afghan-U.S. relations are good in general. There are good contacts, and they are at a good level too. I hope that representation will be upgraded.

[Jastinyah] Is that a justification for their nonrecognition of the mujahidin government?

[Mojaddedi] No, that is not a justification, but there have probably been some shortcomings or unawareness on the part of certain brothers, since some have said in statements that the government would be dissolved after a 4-5 month transitional period. That had adverse repercussions on our recognition, and I personally consider it a major political error.

[Jastinyah] Are you referring to Hekmatyar, the foreign minister in your government?

[Mojaddedi] Yes, I am referring to him and to certain other brothers—this, in the knowledge that Hekmatyar said this during a visit to a certain state, and I personally reproached him for it. It is known that the shura decided that the government should continue for a year after its move into Afghan territory, so the term will start after we have moved into Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] But you are the head of state, and yet ministers in your government say things with which you are dissatisfied. How do you explain this?

[Mojaddedi] First, as you know, the government is a coalition. Second, in view of the government's present position, I can only deal with it by advising it to choose the right path.

[Jastinyah] Let us return to the subject of U.S. aid and its volume.

[Mojaddedi] The aid has not stopped but it is not continuous. We have heard appeals and proposals in the U.S. Senate about the need to reduce aid to the mujahidin, but so far we have seen nothing. I cannot determine the exact volume of U.S. aid.

[Jastinyah] What would happen if that did take place and U.S. aid to you was reduced?

[Mojaddedi] I believe that it is unlikely to occur under U.S. President Bush. If it does happen, however, the friendly Islamic states will spare no effort in providing the aid which they have never withheld. [passage omitted]

Rebel Attacks on Jalalabad, Khowst Detailed
LD1406173989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1704 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] An Armed Forces source told the BIA military section that extremist groups supported by Pakistan launched heavy weapons attacks against the eastern residential areas of Jalalabad. The heroic Armed Forces, in retaliation, struck a crushing blow to the enemies of our Muslim people with artillery, Air Force, and missiles. Some 312 of the joint enemy forces, including Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis and extremist groups linked to them, were crushed and 253 of them were wounded. Four guns, seven missile units, 18 mortars, five rocket launchers, five DShK's, two Blowpipe units, a communications unit, and an enemy cache were destroyed.

Also, during a mopping-up and search operations carried out east of Jalalabad, 130 rounds of artillery, 200 mortar rounds, 50 rocket launchers, and a box of Kalashnikov ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces. The source adds that, as a result of enemy fire, one member of the Armed Forces was martyred and five were wounded.

According to another report, as a result of the heavy weapons attack by the armed extremists subservient to Pakistan on parts of the Khowst Major District, two members of the Armed Forces were wounded. In retaliatory strikes dealt on the enemy, 28 extremists were killed and 16 were wounded. One gun, two mortars, and an enemy communications unit were destroyed.

Quoting the Armed Forces spokesman, the BIA military correspondent reports that, as a result of a heavy weapons assault by extremist groups in parts of Qandahar Province, two people were wounded. During mopping-up and search operations in parts of Herat Province, one extremist ringleader, Atiqollah, and four others were crushed and six were wounded. Nine boxes of DShK ammunition, nine boxes of [word indistinct] ammunition, eight rocket launchers, 1,000 assorted rounds, and eight anti-vehicle mines were seized.

According to a separate report, armed extremist groups fired on Tarin Kowt city, the provincial capital of the Oruzgan Province, martyring 6 people and wounded 10. The majority of the martyred and wounded are children and women. During the retaliatory action by the units and companies of the Armed Forces, 19 enemy were killed, and dozens were wounded. The situation in other provinces and regions of the country was calm as a whole, and traffic is flowing on most of the highways and major communication lines.

BAKHTAR Describes Battles in Provinces
LD1506083589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 14, BAKHTAR—During the mopping up operations of the units of the government forces carried out in the eastern direction of Jalalabad during the past 24 hours 86 rockets, 45 mortar shells, 27 shells of recoilles gun and countless bullets fell at the hand of the armed forces of the country, an authorised military source said.

The enemies were repulsed from their positions and their stronghold came at the hand of the armed forces. Fresh onslaughts of the enemies were foiled. More than 229 members of enemy forces killed, 150 other wounded. Two servicemen and a civilian were killed, six others injured and two residential houses demolished in the extremists attacks on Jalalabad.

Heavy attacks of extremists in Paktia killed 4 civilians, 4 houses and 2 mosques demolished. Two servicemen were also killed. The Paktia garrison retaliated. Nine extremists killed. Sixty two extremists killed and 30 other wounded in the Helmand and Herat Provinces. Three others including one of extremist ringleaders captured.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of th extremists including 60 rockets and 8 mortar shells fell at the hand of the armed forces.

Complete peace prevaile
corners of the country. Ad in the other provinces and
the traffic during that pen highways remained open to
riod.

I
India

*** Gandhi To Visit Islan**
46000147 Islamabad THE nabad in July
30 May 89 p 1 *E MUSLIM in English*

[Text] Indian Prime Mini
to pay an official visit to P ster Rajiv Gandhi is expected
MUSLIM learnt here Mor akistan in July this year, THE
nday.

He may come to Islamaba
after a similar visit to the d on his return from Moscow
Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Benazir
already extended a formal Bhutto is believed to have
it has been accepted. Now invitation to Mr Gandhi and
finalised and are expected the dates of the visit are being
to be announced next month.

Prime Minister Bhutto is
visit to India in August a also expected to pay a return
SAARC [South Asian Asso s part of a series of visits to
ation] countries as the cur ociation for Regional Cooper-
ation. It may be a very sh rent Chairman of the Associ-
Lanka from New Delhi the ort visit. She may fly to Sri
e same day.

A spokesman for the For
Minister will have to mak reign Office said the Prime
countries before Novembe ke her visits to the SAARC
r this year.

The venue of the next SA
November every year and AARC summit is decided by
ment holding the next sun the head of state or govern-
the next chairman of the a mmit automatically becomes
ssociation.

Prime Ministers Benazir B
discuss assortments of issu hutto and Rajiv Gandhi will
bad in July. es when they meet in Islama-

Normalisation of Indo-Pak
among the SAARC countri relations, better cooperation
meeting on the Siachen anies, a review of the officials
proliferation top their agen d progress on nuclear non-
da when they meet.

Some of the subjects will be
Minister Bhutto visits New discussed again when Prime
Delhi.

Some sources say that the
Commission is also expecte Joint Indo-Pak Ministerial
Prime Minister Gandhi is d to meet in Islamabad when
sources, however, could not in the Capital. Diplomatic
said that Mr Gandhi will co confirm this. However, they
level delegation including s me to Islamabad with a high
everal ministers.

Rajiv Gandhi's July vist will
an Indian Prime Minister in ll be the first official visit by
visited Islamabad in Dec-Ja more than 30 years. He last
SAARC summit. n when he had come to the

Gandhi Comments on Troop Pullout From Sri Lanka
BK1406125989 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force [PKF] from Sri Lanka depends upon the full implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Bangalore today, he said that India had already made its position clear to the Sri Lankan foreign secretary on this.

The prime minister pointed out that India and Sri Lanka are joint guarantors to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. Until it is fully implemented, India continues to have a responsibility there.

Mr Gandhi said that the primary responsibility of the PKF is to provide security for the Tamils in Sri Lanka and preserve the unity and integrity of the island. He said India is ready to discuss the process of withdrawal of the PKF. However, this should be a parallel process linked to the question of devolution of powers.

Mr Gandhi observed that the devolution of power is not adequate now. The provincial councils should be in a position to take care of their own security.

Referring to a variety of questions, the prime minister said elections to the Karnataka assembly will not be delayed. The governor will decide on the issue.

The prime minister arrived in Bangalore this afternoon on a day's visit to the city. He was received by the state governor, Mr Venkat Subaya and other dignitaries.

Gandhi on PRC Situation, Ties With Pakistan
BK1506075689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrived at Tirupati today. He was received at the helipad by the Andhra Pradesh governor, Ms Kumudben Joshi, and others. Mr Gandhi was accompanied by the union ministers, Mr P. Shiv Shanker and Mr Bhajan Lal, and the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I], general secretary, Mr K.N. Singh.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at Bangalore airport, the prime minister said India will evaluate the situation in China before commenting on recent incidents in that country. He said we will continue our efforts for normalizing relations with Pakistan.

Spokesman on U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan

BK1306161289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 13 (AFP)—India has told the United States that it is concerned at a decision by Washington to sell 60 F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, a government spokesman said here Tuesday.

"Our concern has been made known to Washington," the spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry said, without elaboration.

The administration of U.S. President George Bush is reported to have approved the 1.4-billion-dollar sale of 60 F-16's to Pakistan during a visit to Washington by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last week.

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since the 1947 independence from Britain and partition of the sub-continent, already has a stock of 40 F-16's.

No official announcement has been made on the new sale, but the National Security Advisor to Mr. Bush, Brent Scowcroft, has been quoted as saying that the "deal is done" and only Congress remained to be notified.

Commentary Assesses Bhutto's Visit to U.S.

BK1106111289 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Jun 89

[H.C.Butt commentary: "Madam Bhutto in Washington"]

[Text] Pakistan's rulers chose early in the life of their nation a policy of political and military alignment with the United States. Pakistan is now in the nonaligned club, but it would be idle to pretend that her ties with Washington have undergone any change. In fact, for the 11 long years that the late General Ziaul Haq ruled over his country, he had the backing of the United States. In the delicate balance of power that now exists in Islamabad after the return to democracy and the rise of Madam Benazir Bhutto to power, the invisible presence of Washington on the side of the government is noted by all concerned.

The Pakistan prime minister's first official visit to the United States 6 months after she attained power was naturally an event of such consequence to her, her country, and of considerable significance to Washington also. Madam Bhutto has never made a secret of her pro-American outlook in foreign policy which fits in well with the line pursued by her country in the past. She has also the added advantage of having had part of her education in Harvard in the United States, a fact which considerably assisted in making her visit to the United States a success from her point of view.

The topics which dominated her talks with President Bush and other American officials naturally touched upon her country's nuclear ambitions and the situation in Afghanistan. The Americans have always followed an ambiguous policy toward Islamabad on the widely known nuclear weapons pursuit of Pakistan. On the one hand, they are concerned over the progress achieved by Pakistan in getting closer and closer to possessing the bomb and their own laws on aid are very clear on withholding it from countries which are pursuing a nuclear weapons policy. On the other, they look upon Islamabad as an essential clog [as heard] in the machine of their Gulf and West Asia strategy. Unfortunately, that dichotomy still governs the American attitude toward Pakistan. This is despite repeated warnings by American sources that Islamabad is only a turn of the screw driver away from the bomb. As in the case of the Reagan administration, President Bush has also turned a blind eye to the scarcely disguised Pakistani preparations for the bomb. Madam Bhutto's faithful assurance that Pakistan will not make a nuclear device seems to have gone down well with him and his administration. The certificate for the annual flow of aid will automatically follow. The Congress may ask some routine questions on the 60 F-16's asked for by Pakistan, but the American Government has made up its mind to supply them.

There is little doubt that both these actions will be seen in Islamabad as Washington's resolve to back the Bhutto government and democracy in Pakistan. But, India has long been a victim of an unwanted arms race induced by sophisticated weapons supplied to Pakistan by the United States and would ask why long-range bombers are necessary for Pakistan at all. Let there be no mistake that the Pakistani military wants these planes and other weapons to get equal with, if not better of, India. These weapons are useless against Afghanistan where, in any case, a political settlement is now envisaged.

Disturbing as these developments are from India's standpoint, the accent on democracy in the speeches in Washington during Madam Bhutto's visit is something to be welcomed. Far too long the Americans have backed dictatorships and military autocracy around the world in the pursuit of its strategic goals. India has been trying to befriend the new government in Pakistan. Things have not changed dramatically in the last 6 months that Madam Bhutto has been in power, but there is a definite relaxation of tension. India would be anxiously looking for measures to turn Pakistan back from the self-defeating course of a military confrontation with her or preparation for it. Realism in military matters and in the nuclear policy would greatly assist in speeding up this process.

On Afghanistan, there is a welcome recognition of the need for a political solution and abandoning the disastrous military course. The mujahidin's Jalalabad campaign was a big failure and Madam Bhutto has sacked the Pakistani general, Lieutenant General Hamid Gul, chief of the secret Interservices Intelligence, who was the father of the scheme. It remains to be seen, however, whether Islamabad and Washington will carry out to its logical conclusion this policy of a settlement by negotiations, not arms.

Spokesman on Talks With Nepal, 'Disinformation'

BK1306152589 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Jun 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Nepal"—ISI headline]

[Text] In reply to a question, the spokesman said that we understand that Nepalese foreign minister has said to our ambassador that he is rather busy in June as he is going out of Nepal. He has requested that talks, if any, should be scheduled for second week of July owing to preoccupations in June, such as his visit abroad, a SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] conference and the Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament].

In reply to another question, the spokesman said that there continues to be disinformation from Nepalese side about so-called blockade. The facts were different. For instance, the amount of levy sugar that was to be given to Nepal under the special arrangement for 1989 was 15,000 tons. We are going ahead with the supplies regardless of the fact that the special arrangement has come to an end. We are going ahead with the original quota even though this year India is going to import sugar. In fact, in 1987 when we were suffering one of our worst droughts ever, there was no let up in our supplies to Nepal.

Another instance was POL [petroleum, oil and lubricants]. They import POL at Calcutta port and we give it to them in Nepal. Total NOC [Nepal Oil Corporation] import from April 1988 to March 1989 was 42.47 crore rupees. On 1/4/88, the reconciled balance due to them was 6.46 crore rupees. This totals up to 48.93 crore rupees worth of POL. However, the actual amount sold to NOC from April 88 to March 89 was worth 53.47 crore rupees, which means they have actually obtained from us an excess amount of POL equal to 4.54 crore rupees, which is 3 million dollars. We are puzzled about their propaganda that POL is not moving into Nepal. The above figures speak for themselves.

Press Reports on Talks Refuted

BK1406160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi today refuted press reports suggesting that the Government of Nepal is eagerly awaiting India's positive response for talks on trade and transit between the two countries. Replying to questions by newsmen, he said the statement made by him on Monday last had already clarified the position.

In a statement, the spokesman said that the Nepalese foreign minister had wanted to hold talks after the 3d of next month owing to his preoccupation this month. The spokesman asserted that India respects the confidentiality of diplomatic exchanges. This clarification, however, became necessary because even after the Nepalese foreign minister's request to hold talks after the 3d of next month, the Nepalese spokesman continued to accuse India of dragging its feet.

Gandhi Congratulates Ryzhkov on Reelection

BK0906155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has congratulated Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov on his reelection as the Soviet prime minister. In his message, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that traditional friendship between New Delhi and Moscow will further strengthen their relations for mutual benefit. Mr Gandhi said Indo-Soviet ties have acquired a new dimension in recent years.

Natwar Singh Leaves for Official Visit to GDR

BK1406162689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, left New Delhi today for Berlin on a 3-day official visit to the German Democratic Republic. Mr Natwar Singh will also visit Hungary and Poland before returning home on the 24th of this month.

Court Frees 64 Sikhs Held for 1988 'Offensive'

BK1306143189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 13 (AFP)—An Indian court Tuesday [13 June] ordered police to release 64 Sikhs arrested a year ago during a bloody commando operation in Punjab's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Judge J.S. Sidhu, a Sikh, sitting in a northern Punjab state court, ordered police to release the suspected Sikh separatists arrested in May 1988 during the offensive codenamed "Operation Black Thunder," PTI said.

The judge said the police should ensure the release of the Sikhs held at separate prisons in the northern state after a government prosecutor moved an application withdrawing all charges against those jailed, PTI said.

The news agency did not say why the prosecution dropped all charges against the Sikhs arrested during a 10-day siege of the temple in Amritsar city, but added the men had been jailed on charges of terrorism and waging war against India. Forty other Sikhs arrested from the temple had already been released earlier.

Indian Army commandos called Black Cats shot dead 36 hardcore Sikh militants and forced 150 Sikhs including 17 women and children to surrender after keeping up a barrage of rocket and machinegun fire at the marbled complex from May 10, 1988.

The offensive was ordered in retaliation for the shooting of a senior Sikh police officer by a militant from inside the 400-year-old temple.

Sikh militants are waging a battle for a homeland in Punjab, which borders Pakistan, and some 670 people have died so far this year in separatist-linked violence.

Blast Kills 5 'Terrorists' in Amritsar 14 Jun
BK1506041889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists were killed when some explosive devices they were handling exploded in Jandiala area of Amritsar District last evening. According to an official spokesman, the explosion took place when the terrorists were handling explosives in a room. The roof of the house collapsed. The five terrorists were buried underneath the debris. The security forces extricated the bodies. One Chinese rifle was recovered from the place.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Majlis Deputies
LD1406134889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Today, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, attended ceremonies for the expression of allegiance by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker, and by all other deputies of the Majlis to him. He emphasized the fundamental role of the Majlis and graciously said: The Majlis and the people will continue with unity and harmony on the path of the imam and of pure Muhammadan Islam and in the future they will overcome all the difficulties.

In these ceremonies, the deputies of the Majlis chanted the slogans "The brother of Ruhollah became the leader of Hezbollah," and "Obedience to Khamene'i is obedience to the imam." They expresed their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Then, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, referred to the heartrending demise of the imam of the ummah. He said: We have lost a very great leader. This loss has occurred and was unavoidable. However, thanks be to God, the imam himself prepared the way for such a day.

The Majlis speaker then described the extensive presence of the people in various ceremonies marking the funeral and the burial and the speed of action of the Assembly of Experts in selecting a worthy individual for the position of leadership as a matter of great importance in the history of the revolution. He added: In the past, various analyses suggested that the absence of the imam would cause the presence of the people to decrease. They imagined that the people were on the stage for the sake of the imam personally.

The second issue was the speed of action by the Assembly of Experts which showed that the officials and those who make the decisions have the ability to take appropriate decisions despite the intensity of their feeling and excitement. Each of these two issues were important in their own way and they proved many calculations wrong. In fact, their actions were in complete opposition of foreign analyses. Even those who had a slight hope about the period after the passing of his holiness the imam have now come to the conclusion that the stability is firm; and in view of people's anxiety regarding the fate of the revolution their steafastness in the revolution and in the path of the imam is even greater than before. This was precisely the reverse of what the enemies had expected

Referring to the unity and cooperation of everybody within the befitting choice of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The best choice was taken, and in the past few days I have not seen anyone who could claim that we had an option other than this choice.

Referring to the unity of all society's members and their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The truth is that the people are truly united, and yesterday's meeting of university staff to express their allegiance to the leader was very instructive and a hopeful sign, showing that the aware and enlightened strata sincerely expressed their allegiance. During the past few days we have witnessed other expressions of allegiance, and today the Majlis deputies have been admitted to the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i to express their obedience and cooperation and support for the leadership and reaffirm what they have declared in a letter.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We announce that just as the Majlis was at the service of the imam and accepted their duty of obedience to the leadership, now they feel the same toward Your Eminence. We are all Muslims and committed. We think that this is our religious duty, and in our judgment we believe that it is also our revolutionary duty and in the country's interest. We hope that in the future the relationship between the Majlis and the leader will be the same as that between his holiness the imam and the Majlis in his time.

Then, addressing the Majlis deputies, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran graciously said: These days are indeed bitter days, and the demise of the dear, struggling, and powerful personality of the imam and our great leader, is not something which we can even easily believe. The memories of those eventful 10 years of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of the oppressed, testifies step by step to the powerful, active, decisive and guiding presence of our beloved imam. In truth our nation and system will not easily be able to compensate for this great loss. We should beseech God Almighty for His assistance.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: This loss was not only a loss for the Iranian nation, but for the entire Islamic world. From the history of Islam, and from Islamic teaching and from our great teacher, we have learned that we should in some way overcome bitter and hard experiences through reliance upon God Almighty and through dependence upon God's gifts. We should intensify our efforts. We should strengthen our sincerity and our communion with God, so that we can fill this vacuum to some extent.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added: The path and the goal have not been changed and the movement which has been started will be continued with strength, power and with deep faith until the final goals are achieved. To halt and to rest on this path is a sin and a loss.

While thanking the Majlis deputies for their sincerity, affection and cooperation, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized: The Majlis is certainly a firm foundation which will adopt correct positions and proper actions and will play a major role. All individuals and organizations also have a role in this major duty [as heard]; but the role and position of the Majlis is more decisive and lofty.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added: I have always had a deep respect for this organization, upon which the whole edifice of the revolution is based, and I have firmly believed that in the past the Majlis has played a very sensitive role in the forward march of the Islamic revolution which will also continue in the future.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran graciously said: Due to its strength, steadfastness and the maintenance of the lofty legal status bestowed upon this sensitive organisation by the Constitution, the Majlis today enjoys a very high reputation in the world. Today the Majlis is not regarded in the world merely as a legislative body, but it has a lofty and outstanding status. This position should also be maintained in the future.

He added: The Majlis is an organization whose actions, positions, and decisions regarding international policies are regarded as the general actions of the Islamic Republic system. You can clearly see the influence of the Majlis and the dear and honorable Majlis speaker in defining and delineating the policies of the Islamic Republic.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized: We will not give up the announced principles of the Islamic revolution for which our self-sacrificing people have made a covenant with their blood; and we will not allow our enemies' goals to be achieved; through our efforts and hard work we will bring despair to our enemies.

Referring to unity and harmony, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added: All society's members should continue to be kind to one another and should follow the path of the revolution and its principles and goals in a serene atmosphere filled with divine tranquillity, the same tranquillity which filled the heart of the imam of the ummah.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran graciously said: It is through unity and harmony that people's hearts will be gladdened and our enemies will be disappointed. This blessed over-flowing fountain will bring despair to our enemies.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed: Unity and harmony among officials is a principle, for which one should strive and should show forbearance. During the past 10 years, in the wise remarks of his holiness the imam, we do not see anything more important than unity and solidarity; and through unity and solidarity and through making use of all capabilities we should brighten the future horizon.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed: The nation which destroyed the satanic regime [of the shah] will also be able to shape its future with the help of the capable managers of this country and will be able to implement the pure Muhammadan Islam in the society. Our nation is strong and decisive and with teeth and claws and with all its being will defend the aspirations of its Islamic revolution.

At the end of his remarks, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran graciously said: Due to his communion with God the imam received God's bounties, and we will also tread the path with the same reliance upon God and with the decisiveness the imam's decisiveness.

Khamene'i Backs Hashemi-Rafsanjani for President
LD1406175189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Today, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, attended ceremonies expressing the allegiance of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and all other deputies. He emphasized the fundamental role of the Majlis, and graciously said: The Majlis and the people will continue with unity and harmony on the path of the imam and of pure Muhammadan Islam and in the future they will overcome all the difficulties. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred the need for concentration in the Executive Branch, and graciously said: Thanks be to God, it is felt that the firm decision of our dear and esteemed brother, His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is that, God willing, he will accept responsibility for the management of the Executive Branch. This is good news for the people because, in fact, we have not had and do not have a person more enlightened, brighter, more experienced, more well known, and more familiar with the secrets and issues of the revolution than he is, and this promises us a good future. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i, Golpayegani Exchange Letters
LD1406153689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] In the wake of demise of the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty dust be sanctfied, and the prayers said by Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani before Imam Khomeyni's pure body, may Almighty God be satisfied with his deeds, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in a cable, expressed gratitude to Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani. The text of the cable is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the illustrious source of imitation, may your blessings continue. With greetings and condolences, your emienence's presence in the mosalla [prayers venue] of Tehran and the prayers said before the pure body of the great leader of the revolution, his holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God sanctify his innocent soul, made me deeply grateful. The gesture brought comfort to the followers of that lofty deceased leader and brought despondency to the enemies. While offering condolences to the lord of the era, may our soul be sacrificed for him, to your eminence, and to all seminaries and the learned ulema, I beseech Almighty God to grant success to you all. Please say prayers for me too.

[Signed and dated] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 12 June 1989

In reply to the message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i the leader of the IRI, to Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, his eminence sent a message to the leader of the IRI. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Haj Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i [note that Golpayegani did not address Khamene'i as ayatollah, a status he acquired after Khomeyni's death], the leader of the IRI, may your success continue. With greetings and while offering my condolences in return, I beseech Almighty God to maintain His approval for you, in the momentous status of leadership of the IRI. No doubt the basis of Your Excellency's measures and decisions will be to please his holiness the remanant of God, may the souls of all world creatures be sacrificed for him, and to ensure full implementation of shari'a regulations. I beseech Almighty God to grant success to everyone in the service of Islam and Muslims.

[Signed] Mohammad Reza al-Musavi al-Golpayegani

[Dated] 12 June 1989

Ayatollah Khamene'i Receives Qom Seminarians
LD1406175389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Members of the Qom seminary met Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to express their support for him. At the start of the meeting, Ayatollah Amini, representing members of the Qom seminary, offered his condolences on the demise of the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the imam of the ages, blessings be on him and all his scion, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Muslims of the world, and added: Fortunately the vacuum that was created as a result of this immense catastrophy was immediately filled with the selection of your excellancy as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Noting the wise guidance of his holiness the imam, Ayatollah Amini said: Fortunately anything that is necessary for a leader and the system of the Islamic Republic has been explained by the imam and we are certain that your excellancy will move on the path of achieving the goals and aspirations of his holiness the imam. He added: The seminarians have always been the arm of the leader and now we are in the service of your excellency, as the esteemed leader, to realize the lofty goals of Imam Khomeyni.

His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, during the meeting, noted that the Qom seminarians are a sensitive and healthy mind, eye, and conscience for the adminstrative organization of the country. He added: With the shining record of the seminary your ideas will certainly be used and I hope that we will move on the path of removing deprivation from the deprived, helping the oppressed, and reviving the fundamental values of pure Islam.

He said: We must undertake to strengthen and disseminate this philosophy, which is one of the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution, with the help of the almighty and move toward these goals.

Article on Constitution Reappraisal Ratified
NC1506082289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The 21st general assembly of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held yesterday with Ayatollah Meshkini in the chair. During this meeting, discussions on the report submitted by Committee No. 4 on ways of reappraising the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran continued. After certain proposals had been examined, the following article was ratified:

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be altered, amended, and supplemented where necessary according to the following procedure:

After consulting with the Expediency Discernment Council, the leadership will issue a decree to the president proposing the issues to be amended or supplemented to the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, which will be formed as follows: members of the Council of Guardians and Expediency Discernment Council, the heads of the 3 branches, 5 leadership experts, 10 people selected by the leadership, 3 members of the cabinet, 3 persons from the judiciary branch, 10 Majlis deputies, and 3 persons from the universities. [sentence as heard]

The mode of operation, supervision, and conditions will be determined by law.

After the decisions adopted by the council have been confirmed and signed by the leadership, these decisions should be put to a referendum and be approved by an absolute majority [aksariyat-e motlaq-e ara'] of the participants in the referendum.

The provisions of the articles concerning the Islamic nature of the system, the Islamic basis of all laws and regulations, the spiritual bases, the objectives of the Islamic Republic kof Iran, the republican nature of the system, the legal guardianship [velayat-e amr], the imamate of the ummah, the management of the country's affairs by reference to public vote, and the official religion of Iran will be unalterable.

The next session of the Council for the Reappraisal of Constitution will be held on Monday, 29 Khordad [19 June].

Kuwait Again Asks for Release of Boat Crew

LD1406133289 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1228 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwait has today renewed its request to the Iranian authorities to release six Kuwaitis, the crew of a coast gguard boat which was detained by the Iranian Navy more that a month ago. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, has told KUNA that this request was conveyed to the Iranian Embassy charge d'affaires in Kuwait, Javad Turk Abadi, when Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad received him before noon today at his office in the Foreign Ministry, requesting him to convey the request to his government.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added: "We fully appreciate the recent circumstances through which the Islamic Republic of Iran has passed with the death of Imam Ayatollah al-Komeyni...and this is the will of God in which we have absolute faith and also in the course of destiny.... However, the continuous detention of the boat and its crew contravene relations of good-neighbourliness." "The release of the Kuwaiti nationals has become an urgent humanitarian question which needs speed and attention...especially as it has continued for longer than necessary," he added.

The Iranian authorities had earlier released two Egyptian nationals who were on board the boat.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Abadi conveyed to him a message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, nominating a new Iranian ambassador to Kuwait.

IRNA: World Silent Over Iraqi Atrocities

LD1406141889 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] London, June 14, IRNA—Some 100,000 Kurds are reported to have barricaded themselves in their homes in Qal'at Dizah, northern Iraq, as security forces have moved into the town to carry out the threatened mass deportation of the citizens.

Around 1,000 families are believed to have already fled from the Kurdish town, which has been under sentence of mass destruction for over two months. Some have escaped across the Iranian border and others have sought to move to other Kurdish areas.

Kurdish sources in London say the majority of the residents, at least 20,000 families, lack the means to go elsewhere and are peacefully trying to resist the relocation program.

Some 2,400 houses in the nearby town of Sangasar have already been dynamited in the evacuation of 12,000 inhabitants and Kurds fear that will be transported to concentration camps near the border with Saudi Arabia.

A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has sent further appeals to the U.N., humanitarian groups and many governments to intervene but so far, as in other instances of Iraq's crimes against humanity, the world has stood silent.

He reported a massive security presence in Qal'at Dizah, 10 miles from the Iranian border, since Monday but had no news on how much force was being used or if there had been any killings.

In a separate development, PUK leader Jalal Talabani made a fresh plea for an instigation into the poisoning of more than 2,500 Iraqi Kurds in Mardine refugee camp, south east Turkey, and for medical assistance for the victims that included women and children. Speaking on BBC world radio, he said he had heard that at least 10 percent of the victims had so far died and that many others poisoned were facing death.

He held the Iraqi regime responsible for poisoning bread supplies to the camp last Friday but equally believed the Turkish authorities were willing accomplices.

Iraqis Poison 4,000 Kurds in Turkey

LD1406170389 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Ankara, June 14, IRNA—Ba'thist agents have poisoned 4,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Kizil Tepe camp near Diyarbakir City, southeastern Turkey, deputy chairman of the city council Hikmet Bozcali disclosed Tuesday.

He said 200 refugees are in a state of coma while 70 others are likely to be paralyzed as a result of the poison added by the Iraqi spies to the bread which was distributed in the camp. He also called for the punishment of responsible elements.

The council in its session also discussed the erecting of a statue as a memorial to Iraqi Kurds martyred in Halabja chemical holocaust last year, the Istanbul-based daily MILLIYET reported today.

The measure does not violate Turkish Government laws, and should not be banned, he was quoted as saying. The statue will be built at any cost, he added.

Meanwhile, governor general of Diyarbakir Province confirmed the poisoning of the Iraqi Kurdish people, and said the bakery has been closed down and investigations are underway.

Turkish Kurds form the majority of the population of Diyarbakir Province.

Iraqi Kurd Leaders Meet Mohtashemi

LD1306204189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Messrs (Asefi) and (Abu-Ali Mowla) from the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]; and Messrs (Mas'ud Barezani), leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq; (Jalal Talebani), leader of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdestan; Shaykh (Othman Abdulaziz), leader of Iraqi Kurdestan's Islamic Movement; and Shaykh (Ali Abdulaziz), the Friday prayer leader of Halabjah, together with a group of Iraqi notables residing in Iran, met Mr Mohtashemi, the interior minister, this morning at the ministry. The visitors expressed their condolences to Mr Mohtashemi about the heart-wrenching demise of the imam of the ummah. They further declared their allegiance with the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Mr Mohtashemi expressed his thanks and said: Our enemies thought that after the demise of his excellency the imam everything would be thrown into a state of chaos. They thought that differences in opinions and tastes would cause the disruption of the social order. However, the children and adherents of his excellency the imam—through their vigilance and revolutionary honesty—immediately chose one of the most suitable children and students of his excellency the imam to take the post of leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Their solidarity and unity caused surprise among the enemies. With reliance on God's might, the nation of Iran will continue the way that his excellency the imam, may God sanctify his soul, had pioneered, through their power, faith, and unity and through God's assistance.

Islamic Groups Back Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Candidacy

LD1406141189 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—The coordinating council of Islamic associations in government ministries Wednesday voiced support for Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's candidacy in the presidential elections due in August.

"The world is looking forward to seeing the election of an Iranian president...who would inspire hope in the hearts of friends but would disappoint enemies," it said in a statement.

It termed Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the most qualified person for the job and one who had never abandoned the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

The Majlis speaker had previously been backed by the Society of Combatant Clergy.

President 'Ali Khamene'i's second term in office will terminate in October. He was selected the leader of the Islamic Republic last week by the Assembly of Experts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also acting Armed Forces commander in chief, officially announced his candidacy in a press conference here on Thursday [8 June].

Details of Khomeyni Estate Revealed

LD1406122489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni has sent a letter to the chief justice, in which he asks for an evaluation of the personal property of his excellency the imam and his household. The text of the letter is as follows:

In the name of the exalted: to the esteemed head of the country's supreme judicial organ, His Eminence Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili, may your benefits increase; with greetings.

Clause 142 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution states that the property of the leader or of the leadership council, the president, the prime minister, the ministers and their dependents—before and after their period of service—should be investigated by the supreme judicial organ, so as to ensure that this property has not increased

improperly. As you are informed, his excellency the imam has acted according to that clause, and has sent the list of his property to that organ. I quote the list in full below:

In the name of the exalted: Name: Ruhollah; Surname: Mostafavi, known as Khomeyni; Birth certificate number: 2744, issued in Khomeyn; Occupation: clergy [rowhani].

1. Details of real estate: a house with a courtyard in Qom's (Bab Qaleh), which is already known; a piece of land inherited from my father—as is known by Mr Pasandideh [Khomeyni's brother] the ownership of this land is shared between him, myself, and the inheritors of my deceased brother, Mr Hendi; and my allowance from this land which, as my brother has been informed, amounts to 4,000 rials, and which is not being paid [as heard].

2. Movable assets, including all amounts of cash, bank deposits, and savings, and shares and other property: a small amount in cash in Tehran from alms and personal gifts; I have no domestic furniture—the few items of furniture which are in Qom or Tehran are my wife's property; there are two pieces of carpet at home which I have asked to given in alms for the poor and needy. The carpets do not belong to my inheritors and they should be given to poor people who are descendants of the prophet and the imams. A few books remain out of all the books which were plundered during the era of the defunct shah. There are some other books in Tehran which were given to me as gifts by their authors. I do not know their value. The furniture currently in my present residence in Tehran is the property of the houseowner. Ahmad is informed about this.

3. All the cash in banks, at home or at the disposal of individuals—about which Mr Pasandideh is informed—are religious donations which do not belong me and to which my inheritors have no right, and I have explained about this in my will. The above sums exclude the small sum of money which I mentioned earlier.

Dated: 14 January 1981

Signed: Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

The children of his excellency the imam, following the imam himself, have also sent a list of their property to the supreme judicial organ. I request your excellency to fulfill your responsibility vis-a-vis his excellency the imam's family without any special consideration, thereby making the generous soul of that great man happy. I ask the almighty for your success.

[Dated] 14 June 1989

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni

Further on Donations for Khomeyni Shrine

LD1406111289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 jun 89

[Excerpt] Following the extensive expression of interest by various groups of people for participation in the construction of the sacred shrine of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, the headquarters in charge of convening the mourning ceremonies of Imam Khomeyni issued the following statement:

In His exalted name. In view of the extensive expression of interest and the frequent application of the esteemed nation for participation in the construction of the sacred shrine of his holiness the imam and providing what is needed for it, hereby we inform the public that in addition to Account Number 200 of Bank Melli for cash donations, those who wish to make endowments in the form of property and real estate and noncash donations can refer to the esteemed Friday imams in various cities and inform them of their decision, so that steps may be taken regarding their registration and transfer to the sacred shrine. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Opens 5 Jun Uprising Seminar

LD0306143889 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 3 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i inaugurated the 6th congress in commemoration of the June 5th, 1963 Islamic uprising in Iran, here Friday.

Addressing the congress attended by a large number of 'ulema, Majlis deputies and people, the president said the uprising opened a new chapter in Iran's history.

He told the two-day congress that the uprising had two main features: the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and massive public participation.

He added that the imam was the focal point of the uprising and had made the preparation for this great move.

The president said the imam with a determined will, great hope and reliance on the people started the movement and the harsh reaction of shah's regime increased public awareness.

Commodore Malekzadegan Cited on Naval Issues

NC3105063989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 May 89

[Text] Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces' Navy, attended a news conference in Nowshahr and spoke about activities of the Nowshahr Maritime Sciences University.

He said that in this complex courses are taught in mechanical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, maritime telecommunications, management,

navigation, marine and pilot training, and other subjects and that the students of this complex are chosen after a nation-wide entrance examination.

He then described the quality of education in the complex as acceptable internationally and expressed hope that with the cooperation and assistance of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Cultural Revolution Council, the Navy will elevate the quality of its education to the expert and doctoral level so that it can expand its scientific centers to achieve educational self-sufficiency.

Commodore Malekzadegan also referred to the activities of the self-sufficiency jihad of the Islamic Armed Forces' Navy during the imposed war and added: During the imposed war, various plans such as the plan to divert missiles to fight missile systems and to confront missiles in the Persian gulf and other important plans were assigned to the expert and committed personnel of the Navy's self-sufficiency jihad. These plans were successfully implemented. Now most of our naval units have equipment manufactured by the self-sufficiency jihad.

In conclusion, he referred to the prime minister's remarks at the graduation ceremony for the students of the complex on the need for the navy of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces to be present in the Indian Ocean and said: By strengthening the Chah Bahar Base, we intend to extend our presence from the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean, too.

'Qods' Military Exercises Continue in South

LD0206130989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jun 89

[Text] The scond phase of the great Qods maneuvers, which has begun in southern regions in order to maintain the combat-readiness of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], continued this morning.

The Central News Unit reports that in the maneuver—involving armored, mechanized, infantry, and logistical units of the VII Corps of ground forces of the IRGC, as well as fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force and the fighter helicopters of the Army Aviation Corps—the exercising forces set up a wide range of precise fire, utilizing semi-light and heavy weaponry as well as supporting tank fire. They attacked the postions of the imaginary enemy, creating chaos in their ranks by passing through various big canals, minefields, and barbed wire. They managed to expel the imaginary enemy away from their positions.

The participating forces also made an extensive onslaught, using armored units, after passing the second and third lines of the imaginary enemy and consolidating their ranks in the captured areas.

The Central News Unit reports: On the second day of those maneuvers—taking place in the presence of the acting commander of the IRGC ground forces—a group of military and security forces commanders and supervisors of the region's politico-ideological departments were present.

The Qods maneuvers, consisting of five phases in which live ammunition and bullets are used, is one of the biggest maneuvers of the ground forces of the IRGC.

Exercise Begins Third Stage

LD0306195789 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 03 Jun 89

[Text] Ahvaz, June 3, IRNA—The third phase of the Qods maneuvers was launched in the Khuszestan Province Saturday with military units thwarting attacks by hypothetical enemy forces

The armoured, infantry and mechanized units of the IRGC's [Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Corps] 7th Corps built canals and trenches and set up barricades at areas occupied by the enemy and smashed its counter-attacks.

Live ammunition was used in the manuevers, the biggest ever launched by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in Khuzestan.

During the second phase Friday, the forces supported by jet fighters and helicopter gunships and heavy artillery fire stormed enemy positions.

In an interview with IRNA, the 7th Corps commander termed the military exercise as "unprecedented".

Oil Minister Departs for Bulgaria 14 Jun

LD1406083789 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—Oil minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh heading a high-ranking economic-oil delegation left Tehran for Sofia Tuesday afternoon, announced the Oil Ministry's public relations office here Wednesday.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of the Bulgarian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Khristo Khristov.

Aqazadeh will discuss issues related to oil, natural gas and petrochemicals with the Bulgarian officials.

Deputies, Executive Branch Discussed in Majlis
NC3105123489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1900 GMT 30 May 89

[Videorecording of proceedings of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, held in the Majlis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Emami-Kashani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. As far as the reappraisal of Article 64 is concerned, I should say that the dear gentlemen present voiced some opposition followed by others who spoke in favor; I can say that almost 80 percent of the answers to those who spoke in opposition were given by those who spoke in favor. But I will sum up the deliberations and then sum up why our committee submitted this draft and why it was ratified.

All the deliberations reflect various issues. One is that we should strive toward increasing the number of deputies and the sovereignty of the nation. The more deputies, the stronger the Majlis will be, and the people's presence on the scene will be greater. This is one of the points around which the gentlemen's doubts circled.

The second point was that we see similar things in the world. For example, we see how in the United States there is one deputy per 300,000 people or how in the Soviet Union there is a parliament with 1,500 deputies. A glance at the world shows that there are different approaches to the number of deputies.

The third point was that we should designate deputies on the basis of justice. For example, they say that during the shah's era they designated a deputy wherever they wanted to and that we should not do the same.

The fourth point was that we should base the number of deputies on provinces. And in answer to our remarks that if we do this, some districts and towns not in the center of the province will be deprived of a deputy, Mr Amini said that we should set a ceiling for the districts and towns too, or something like this.

The fifth point which, I think, was stated by Mr Musavi-Ardabili was the question on what criteria was used by the committee to state that a population of 1 million should be used as the basis for one deputy? According to him, if we know what the criterion is, then we will vote. But when we do not know what the criterion is, then how can we vote? This was the last point that appeared in the deliberations by the dear gentlemen.

Another small point was also referred to by one of my dear friends in the midst of these deliberations was that you did not include an increase in the number of deputies for the religious minorities when you were studying this in committee number four. He asked why this was done. And this point too was propounded as a problem.

I would first like to sum up these five points, and then I want to propose what should be done.

The dear gentlemen are aware of the contents of Article 64 of the Constitution, but I will read it once again. [passage omitted] There are two problems in Article 64. The Council for the Reappraisal the Constitution started a discussion on this and his holiness of the imam also emphasized this article because of these two problems. The first problem is that Article 64 does not envision a deputy for deprived areas or for areas that are politically important. We may have a city with a population of 5,000 for which we want to have a deputy, but this article does not allow us to. The second problem is that by implementing this article we will not have a methodical increase in parliament so that every time the population increases by 150,000, we will be adding to the number of deputies. What will be the result of this? These are the two basic problems in this article. [passage omitted]

The issue here is to prevent this immethodical increase in the number of deputies because there is no reason for the number of parliament deputies to increase continuously. [passage omitted]

Let us take the Soviet Parliament or another parliament as an exmaple. As Dr Habibi pointed out in his remarks yesterday, these parliaments with their large number of deputies do not have any parliamentary work to do. They may carry out two parliamentary maneuvers in a year. They do not work regularly during the entire year. This is why we should not compare ourselves with them, and if we do compare ourselves with them we should look at our population, the level of our national sovereignty, and the increase in the number of deputies. If we compare all these things, we will see that we are better off.

The other point that was propounded is that we should make the province our basis; one of our friends stated that we can solve the conflicts between Khunsar, Golpayegan, and other places and make the province our basis. The reason why I am referring to these two areas is because he did so. What I say is that if you make the province the basis and sort out the conflict between Khunsar and Golayegan, then you will have a conflict between Golpayegan and Esfahan, between Khunsar and Esfahan, between Kashan and Esfahan, between Na'in and Esfahan and a conflict between the entire province and Esfahan. Why? Because all the deputies who will be elected will be from Esfahan. [passage omitted]

These are almost all the axes that were discussed in the deliberations and answered by those who spoke in favor. One point that I would like to state in conclusion is: Why should the figure of 1 million be taken as a criterion? In order to answer this I will discuss what we should do. We should follow a policy, ratify that policy here, and then decide on how fast or slowly we should implement this policy by propounding our proposals. The first question is: Should there be a reappraisal of the Constitution? If these two problems in Article 64 which prevent us from

having a deputy from deprived areas and which encourage an unmethodical increase in the number of our deputies should be removed, then let us think of what we should do. If we should not increase the number of deputies, then we should come out and say that we should not do so. But how can we have a deputy from a politically important area if we do not increase the number? So we see that we cannot avoid an increase. If we should increase the number, then we should see on what basis.

You may say that we can increase this number by adding a clause to the effect that this increase may be from any place that the Majlis deems necessary. This is one way of doing it. The second way is to state that we will increase a constituency where given conditions affect the population. The third way is to say that a province will obtain an additional deputy under a given condition. The fourth way is to say that if there is a given increase in the country's population, we will increase the number of deputies. If we take one of these as a criterion, then we can say that the ceiling should be 270 deputies and we do not see any need for an increase. If the Majlis deems it necessary to have a deputy from a said area, then it will ratify a law on this.

However, what are you putting in the hands of the Majlis? Will you include something in the Constitution which grants the legislative branch the right to do this? The constitutions of other countries place a yardstick in the hands of the legislative branch and says that this is the yardstick you should use. It is not a yardstick merely to say: Wherever deemed necessary. We should specify a yardstick. But when you want to do so, what will you use as a criterion? The constituency? I should say that the most unstable element in appointing a deputy is the element of population. One can never depend on the element of population because we may have a given population in an area which will later on be reduced because of emigration elsewhere. Therefore, we cannot depend on the element of population, or of the constituency. If we want to depend on the population of a province, our problem will not be solved. We will have the same difficulties. But we thought that the best yardstick would be that of the country's entire population, and if 1 million is added to the entire poulation then we can grant one deputy. We can then say that humanistic, political, geographic, and political elements are all in the hands of the legislative branch and this branch can say where this increase can be. [passage omitted]

Our Constitution should not be such that it will tie the hands of the Majlis. It should be such that it will give the Majis a free hand so that the legislative branch can do what it wants. [passage omitted]

We have said that the criterion should be 1 million. You say no? You think we should not say 1 million? Then what should we say? Should we say every constituency? There will be a problem. Should we say every province? There will be a problem. Should we say that the population should not incrase? That would present is a problem. [passage omitted]

I would like to sum up by saying that there is no alternative to increasing the number of deputies, and if we have to increase them we need a yardstick. Our yardstick must be the increase of 1 million in population. We have not said that an increase in population is the only criterion. We propounded political, economic, and geographic issues and placed all these in the hands of the legislative branch, giving it freedom to act fully in concordance with the interests of the country. I have nothing more to say.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We should vote now. There are two points that I should mention. One is that some of the gentlement, particularly Mr Yazdi, have asked: When you say 1 million or 10 years, do you mean from this point or will we count the 10 years that have passed too? The committee's opinion was that we should calculate from this point. In other words, the first time that we will be able to increase the number of deputies will be in 10 years. Of course, this can be amended during the second round of deliberations. In other words, if there are those who think that we should include the past 10 years too, then they can propose so. The committee's view, however, is the next 10 years. In other words, the Interior Ministry will submit figures and we have accepted this. There was another point that was raised by Mr Yazdi.

[Yazdi] I have written this down.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Go ahead.

[Yazdi] This is in reference to the remarks by brother Musavi-Ardebili. When I said in my remarks that it is not an issue of relations among the population, I did not say that it is not an issue of the relationship between the population and the deputies basically. I say that it is not only relations. In other words, we have no differences on this point. I did not consider relationship as the only issue. I did not say that there is no relationship. He said that this is what I said.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We will now vote on the general points. By this we mean that everything that has been said by the gentlemen can be discussed. For example, you can say 500,000 or 2 million instead of 1 million. You can propose 5 years instead of 10 years. You can say 270 deputies or 300 or 250. In other words, all the things that were discussed can be proposed for further discussion during the second round. Everything can be discussed. The issue is for us to start the second round. How many of us are there?

[Yazdi] Twenty-one.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There are 21 people present. Those who are in favor of the general points of this report can vote. [Pause] It is approved, with a strong majority. What is the next topic on the agenda?

[Habibi] The next topic on the agenda is the report prepared by the second committee on centralization in the executive branch.

[Prime Minister Musavi] (?The topic is) the report prepared by the committee in charge of studying centralization in the executive branch which has been submitted to the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. The committee discussed matters pertaining to centralization in the management of the executive branch by studying executive branch management in the constitutions of a number of countries by hearing the views of experts and analyzing various plans during six sessions, and approved the following article with a majority of votes:

The management of the executive branch and the responsibilities stemming from it will be centralized in one individual.

Of course the view of the minority is that centralization in management by dividing duties and authority and the clear delineation of these will be possible. A report on this is submitted.

[Signed] Chairman of the Committee, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Considering, first, that the executive branch is an interconnected complex, and a plurality of decisionmaking centers and the division of responsibility will lead to friction among forces, and second, the remarks by his holiness the imam on centralization of management in the executive branch, the committee discussed the following two drafts which were the most significant. Neither received the necessary number of votes.

One is the draft on a presidential system. The general principles in these are: 1. The president will be the head of the executive branch; 2. The president has all the authority of the executive branch; 3. The president is elected by direct vote of the people; 4. The president presents the ministers to the Majlis for a vote of confidence; 5. The ministers are responsible to the president and the Majlis; 6. The president has the right to remove any of the ministers and if half of the cabinet is changed, he should receive a fresh vote of confidence for the new cabinet.

The second draft is on a system combining a presidential and a parliamentarian system. The general principles in this draft are as follows: 1. The president is elected by the people; 2. After his election, the president will present a prime minister for a vote of confidence from the Majlis; 3. The president can propose the removal of the prime minister to the Majlis; 4. After receiving a vote of confidence, the prime minister will present the cabinet to the Majlis for a vote of confidence; 5. The prime minister will be the head of the executive branch and responsible to the Majlis; 6. The prime minister has the right to remove ministers and if half of the cabinet is changed, he will have to apply to the Majlis for a fresh vote of confidence in the cabinet; 7. The duties of the prime minister under the current Constitution such as the responsibility for implementing the constitution, forming the three branches, awarding government medals, and supervising regulations will continue.

These are the proposals heard by the council. As the brothers can see, the meetings did not have any clearcut results.

In the discussions on the need for centralization and on the fact that the current situation now is not favorable, all the brothers oppose. [sentence as heard] We have many problems in the current situation and in execution. Of course, views differed on the root of these problems. However, there were no doubts whatsoever that in view of the current system, the duties of the ministers, the government, and the president conflict with each other and that this prevents the centralization of affairs for firm, immediate, and comprehensive decisions and that the center of policymaking has been divided among various places. When these discussions were held in the committee, a majority of votes were received for centralization in one person. The discussions then continued.

The discussions were on topics that have already been stated here. That is, they were on the topic of the presidency or the granting of the rights of the cabinet to the government around the prime minister. The benefits of each of these were noted. The most important one to which I can refer was that in the presidential system, the president is elected by the direct vote of the people and thus enjoys strength and stability. In case of any possible vicissitudes in the country, which will naturally have an impact on the Majlis and on society, this strength and stability can be used to maintain the country's and government's stability. These were the benefits noted on the need for centralization.

As for the issue of the prime minister, some brothers said that a presidential system can, in the long run, lead to arbitrary rule because the president will not be responsible to the Majlis. Since his position will be very high, he cannot be taken back and forth to the Majlis. Thus he may possibly implement his own will, in which case we will have arbitrariness and dictatorship. These are being widely discussed these days.

On the whole, when these discussions were carried out, views were expressed on both ideas—more than those I have stated here—and it was decided to take the issue to the Reappraisal Council. Naturally during this session all the reasoning behind these two views can be discussed in detail. With the directive that the council can give, the committee can continue its activities and we can find

solutions. The committee is facing a dilemma between these two options, and the votes required are not received for either. Everyone states a reason for his views and discussions have become repetitive. We hope that, with its discussions, the council will be able to reach a clear result, God willing.

Of course, if the necessity rises I will give more explanations on the various ideas that were stated in the committee.

[?'Amid-Zanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Since I am going to speak in opposition, I would like to explain something first. If the decision on centralization in the executive branch is on the person who will be our future candidate for presidency—that is Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani—then we would not have any argument. But he has said that since the discussion is on general points, he is willing that I speak in opposition. Therefore, if it were an issue of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, then we would have complete trust in handing over all authority to him. But since the discussion is general, then I will speak against the decision adopted by committee two which has defined centralization as follows: centralization means placing all the responsibilities of the executive system in one person. I oppose this for the following reasons:

There are only two explanations given in this decision. I will list both, asking that at least notes be taken on the reasons that I will have stated so that when answers are given then we will not be out of order. I say this because when I state some reasons in my former opposition none of them were answered by Mr Emami. [passage omitted]

The executive branch is said to be an interconnected complex and there are both minor and major problems. Who says so? I it will suffice to refer to one example: Is heavy industry or a steel mill the same as city sanitation? One of the responsibilities of the executive branch has to do with the Inteior Ministry, the municipality, and cleaning cities; and the other is a steel mill and heavy infrastructural industries. What connection is there between these two? There is no reason to think that this is an interconnected complex.

The other point is that even if we assume that the responsibilities of the executive branch are interconnected, then again can we accept placing all these responsibilities in the hands of one person if he is able to carry out all these responsibilities? [passage omitted]

The second reason stated in the decision was that the division of authoity will lead to friction among forces. This too is something that cannot be proved and no reason for drawing this conclusion has been given. How have you removed the friction among the three branches? The three branches have been separated. There is no friction on the basis of the principle of the division of powers. Thus, responsibilities that are related to each other can be separated from each other without creating any friction, in the same way as we have done among the three branches. [passage omitted]

Why should we sacrifice a division of responsibilities for the sake of centralization? Why should we not do the opposite? Why should we not sacrifice centralization for the sake of a division of responsibilities? The division of responsibilities is an accepted principle which has been emphasized even in the remarks and the letters of his holiness the imam. Why are we underrating the division of responsibilities for the sake of overrating centralization?

The other point that has been stated in the committee's report is the reference to the imam's remarks on centralization in the executive branch. This is not what the imam meant. The imam has called for centralization in the execuive branch management and this centralization can be achieved by the division of responsibilities too. In what way? If we can separate the areas of responsibilities and have a clearcut delineation and divide all the responsibilities of the executive branch into two completely favorable areas and place each of these responsibilities in the hands of one person or centralize these responsibilities in one person, then we will have implemented the imam's call and will have achieved centralization in the executive branch.

The other point is that in both drafts the terms have not been clarified. The gentlemen have said that the first draft is on a presidential system and the second is on a combination. Both drafts concern combination....

[Khamene'i, interrupting] Please do not go into issues that are to be discussed in the second round. There are enough topics to discuss. Three or four more people want to speak. Let us coplete the first round and then go on into the second round.

[(?'Amid-Zanjani)] At any rate, you must be right. I will do what the board wants me to do. Therefore, I will continue with the first part and that is that I oppose this decision. I believe in centralization but not in one person. If this is the decision, then there is no need for ratification because the imam too has referred to centralization and everyone agrees on this. [passage omitted]

[Kho'iniha] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I want to refer to the first part of the committee's decision and the committee's acceptance of the principle of centralization. When we wanted to vote for this in the committee, I too proposed a change in the words. The committee changed the words and a vote was cast. The discussion that took place in the committee was: Now that we want to say that the principle of centralization is ratified, do we know what form we have in mind? Will it be a presidential form, a cabinet form, or another form? [passage omitted]

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Majlis To Amend Political Parties Law

LD2805144489 Tehran IRNA in English
1320 GMT 28 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—The Majlis Sunday approved a bill in its first reading to amend the political parties law.

The amendment would allow the Information Ministry to be represented at a committee which looks into the qualifications of political organizations seeking legal recognition.

The current law, passed in August 1981, forsees a committee of five, including representatives from the Supreme Judicial Council, the Prosecutor General's office, the Interior Ministry and the Majlis.

The committee went into action last December when the Interior Ministry announced that the law, which had been suspended during the war, would be implemented.

About 40 political parties and cultural organizations are known to have sought permits to start legal activities.

The generalities of the bill was approved by the majority of deputies and would now be discussed in detail first in relevant committees before it is reintroduced to the full Majlis.

Aircraft Industry Able To Repair Boeing 707's

NC2905081589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 29 May 89

[Text] The Iranian Aircraft Industries Company is fully capable of carrying out basic repairs to Boeing 707's throughout the Middle East.

This was announced by the director of Iranian Aircraft Industries, who also pointed to the basic repairs carried out on the Iranian Air Force's Boeing 707 flight refuelling tankers and added: All the parts of this aircraft that were destroyed by the enemy's air attacks were designed and manufactured by the personnel of Iranian Aircraft Industries and some of these parts were reconstructed. He also explained that since the victory of the Islamic revolution, all military aircraft, and especially those used during the imposed war—a total of 700—have been overhauled and repaired by Iranian Aircraft Industries. Also, basic repairs have been carried out on 600 aircraft engines.

Expressing thanks for the efforts of the Iranian Aircraft Industries personnel, he said: This enterprise has now fully replaced, both technically and operationally, all the U.S. companies that were previously active in Iran.

General on Availability of Draft Exemptions

LD2605092489 Tehran IRNA in English
0630 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—Those eligible for compulsory military service can pay 10 million rials (dlrs 13,500) and receive a temporary draft exemption certificate.

"The exemption card can be renewed in peace time and in time of war those holding the cards would be called to military duty and their money would be returned," the head of the draft service has been quoted as saying.

Brig. Gen. Razmjou told the daily KAYHAN that the exemption card was valid for three years before needing renewal.

Those eligible for the draft outside Iran could also receive the card by paying dlrs 10,000 to Iranian diplomatic missions, he said.

Meanwhile the compulsory service of those who joined the army before last August's ceasefire would be reduced from two years to one if they have two or more children.

Married soldiers with no children or with one child would serve 18 months.

Exemptions Clarified

LD2605124489 Tehran IRNA in English
1134 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—A three-year draft exemption card would only be issued to Iranians residing abroad, the office of the acting armed forced commander in chief announced Friday.

'Ali Reza Afshahr, deputy at the office in charge of manpower denied a report that those in the country would be exempted from compulsory service by paying rials 10 million (dlrs 13,500).

"This scheme is only for those abroad who have not reported themselves to draft centers," Afshar said.

"Those eligible for military service who are abroad and cannot report to general draft centers before the 9 September deadline can pay a deposit of 10 million rials or dlrs 10,000 and postpone their compulsory duty for three years."

If these Iranians did not report for service or failed to pay the deposit they would face severe punishments specified by law.

The daily KAYHAN Thursday quoted the head of the draft service that draft exemption cards would also be issued to those eligible for military service inside the country.

Afshahr added that to avoid such mistakes, any information about the draft situation must be checked with his office before they are published.

Defense, Reconstruction To Have Top Priority

LD1406163189 Tehran IRNA in English
1550 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Esfahan, June 14, IRNA—Reconstruction and defence plans will be given top priority in a total of 1,700 research projects to be carried out this calendar year (ending March 1990), a senior official said today.

Dr. Mo'tamedi, deputy minister of culture and higher education, said the figure showed a 30 percent increase as compared to last year.

Efforts have been made to increase investments in the field of research to one percent of the country's gross national product and to raise the ratio of researchers to 250 per million people within the next five years, he said.

He said the largest-ever budget allocated for research activities stood at 0.21 percent of the GNP and the highest ratio of researchers recorded to date has never exceeded 82 per million.

Commentary on Mode of Appointing Radio, TV Chief

NC0206194589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
16 May 89 p 2

[Commentary under the rubric "In the Margin of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution" entitled "The Mode of Choosing the head of the Voice and Vision"]

[Excerpts] The fourth committee of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution has approved the mode of choosing the head of the Voice and Vision. According to this decision, the appointment and removal of the managing director of the Voice and Vision will be carried out by the unanimous vote of the heads of the three branches and a presidential decree. Also, a seven-member council appointed by the leader and the three branches will exercise supervision to see that the managing director carries out his duties satisfactorily. The related duties and regulations will be determined by the heads of the three branches and the appropriate laws will be determined by the Majlis.

The committee's proposal will practically turn the Voice and Vision into the undeclared fourth branch. Undoubtedly, when the appointment and removal of the managing director take place by unanimous vote and presidential decree, the seven-member committee will be nothing more than a decorative organ. [passage omitted]

This decision is surprising. Article 164 made a unanimous vote obligatory in the case of the dismissal or transferral of a judge, and experience has shown that the Supreme Judicial Council was always facing problems. When the president of the supreme court, the prosecutor general, and two of the members of the council concluded that it was necessary to transfer a judge, it was sufficient for one more person to be cautious for a deadlock to emerge and for no decision to be adopted. Now how is it that a unanimous vote been proposed for the appointment of the managing director of the Voice and Vision? [passage omitted]

The Voice and Vision is undoubtedly among the most important and most sensitive organs of the country. For this reason it is necessary for the managing director to have a specific and effective relationship with the three branches. For example:

The managing director should be introduced to the Majlis by the head of the executive branch after approval from the head of the judiciary branch. The deputies will discuss his record and personality and will grant him a vote of confidence, like a minister. The managing director of the Voice and Vision will hold the same rank as a minister of state and will be a member of the cabinet. In this case:

1. The managing director will be a member of the cabinet. He will have joint responsibilities with the other ministers and will be kept informed of the general situation of the country.

2. The managing director will be accountable to the Majlis and the Majlis can question him on the performance of his duties.

3. In this case, the head of the judiciary branch, who was involved in the appointment of the managing director, should also supervise his dismissal from office. The method to be used in this is as follows: The head of the judiciary branch will tender a proposal to the president on the dismissal of the managing director. If the president or the president and the prime minister agree, the managing director will be dismissed, otherwise the head of the judiciary branch can propose that the Majlis take a fresh vote of confidence.

It is in this way that the Voice and Vision will be placed within the general orbit of the government, the Majlis, and the judiciary branch. Otherwise all of them would only be observers.

Gas, Crude Exports From Mahshahr Resumed

NC2805064589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 May 89

[Text] The first consignment of our country's natural crude oil was loaded at the Mahshahr oil terminal and exported outside the country by means of an oil tanker. According to the Central News Unit, the natural crude oil is the second product of the Mahshahr gas and liquified gas refiner. Liquefied household gas is also a product of this refinery.

This refinery had been extensively damaged from the enemy's aerial attacks during the imposed war and has been reconstructed with the efforts of workers in the oil rich areas of the south. The refinery resumed operations in the month of Bahman [21 January—19 February], daily producing 500 tons of liquefied household gas for domestic consumption and 8,000 barrels of natural crude oil for export.

The report adds: With the near completion of the second phase of the Mahshahr gas refinery, the production of gas and natural crude oil is expected to rise considerably.

Mineral Reserves Stand at 5.6 Billion Tons

LD2205144189 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Iran's proved mineral deposits stand at 5.6 billion tons, of which 3.1 billion tons have been discovered during the post-revolution era, the mines and metals minister said.

At a ceremony marking the first day of the Mines Week (May 22-27), Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi added that annual mineral yield from the country's 830 active mines is 45 to 50 million tons.

He put the proved deposits of copper with a one-percent purity at 800 million tons, of lead and zinc with a maximum 30 percent purity at 80 million tons and of bauxite with a purity of 25 to 49 percent at 90 million tons.

He said the country's proved chromite with an average purity of 45 percent stood at 2.5 million tons.

Among major plans either implemented or underway by his ministry, said Ayatollahi, are the Mubarakeh steel complex, Ahvaz national steel complex, the Kavian hot rolled plant and the expansion of Isfahan steel mill and the Sarcheshmeh copper complex.

"The projects are expected to cost a total of rials 1,300 billion (dlrs 18.5 bn)," added the minister.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdol Karim Musavi Ardabili who described mines as a "divine gift" and one of the pillars for the country's economic and political independence.

Pakistan

Spokesman Cited on Afghan Issue, Siachen Talks

BK1406142989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The defense secretaries of Pakistan and India are to meet in Islamabad tomorrow during which talks will be held on various matters, including the Siachen issue. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the foreign secretary-level talks between the two countries will begin on Saturday [17 June] during which outstanding issues will be discussed.

Referring to Afghanistan, the spokesman said that Pakistan has been consistently supporting a political settlement of the Afghan issue. The spokesman said that Pakistan favors setting up a neutral cabinet for a short period in Afghanistan in order to transfer power to the interim government of the mujahidin. This means that the Najibullah administration should quit. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has also stated this on a number of occasions, the spokesman added.

Further on Statement

BK1406160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpt] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan favors setting up a neutral cabinet consisting of technocrats in Kabul for a short period through which power can be transferred to the interim government of the Afghan mujahidin. This means that the Soviet-backed Kabul administration should quit. This administration has been the biggest hurdle to the peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue. The spokesman said that if Najibullah refuses to directly transfer power to the mujahidin, then power can be transferred to the cabinet of technocrats. The spokesman said that Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto during her recent visit to the United States had exchanged views with the UN secretary-general on this proposal. The spokesman said that the secretary-general, who has been entrusted with the task of seeking a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue, may establish contact with all parties to the Afghan issue, including the Soviet Union. Pakistan itself has been maintaining contacts with the Soviet Union in this regard. If the USSR agrees with this proposal then it will secure an important position in this issue. [sentence as heard]

The spokesman said that Pakistan favors a political settlement of the Afghan issue, but that the Afghan people cannot be told what they should do. The final settlement should be completed by the Afghans themselves. If the Afghan people do not want to negotiate

directly with Najibullah or the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, we cannot force them to do so. However, Pakistan will continue to suggest that the Afghan people strive for a political settlement.

The spokesman said that Pakistan is in contact with all parties to the issue, including the Soviet Union.

In reply to a question on whether the Soviet Union and the United States will adopt identical action and stop supplying arms to all sides in Afghanistan, the spokesman said that it is for the two superpowers to decide. [passage omitted]

IJI Reiterates Policy on Afghanistan

BK1206034789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Lahore yesterday, the information secretary of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI—Islamic Democratic Alliance], Agha Murtaza Pooya, said his party will not give up its stand on Afghanistan, the Kalabagh dam issue, and the Islamization of society. In response to a question, he said if the leader of the Awami National Party, Abdul Wali Khan, does not hold identical views with the IJI on these issues, then he will not be with the Ittehad [alliance] for a long period of time.

Awami National Party Chief Cited on Opposition

BK1106091989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Awami National Party [ANP] chief Khan Abdul Wali Khan has said that the recently-formed alliance of opposition parties will be restricted only to the National Assembly. He was informally talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday.

Referring to the alliance between Islamic Democratic Alliance and ANP in the North-West Frontier Province, he said that it is the decision of the provincial-level party and has nothing to do with national politics.

In reply to a question if there is any possibility of an understanding with the Pakistan People's Party, the ANP chief said that there is no last word in politics.

Party To Cooperate With PPP

BK1306161789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] At a meeting in Islamabad today, the high-level teams of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the Awami National Party [ANP] reviewed the country's overall political situation and their cooperation at the federal and provincial levels. Later, the two sides described their talks as positive and satisfactory. The talks were held at a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in honor of the ANP chief, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, and Begum Nasim Wali Khan. The talks, which lasted for about 2 hours, were attended by the chief minister of the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP], Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao; Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah; Federal Minister for Law and Justice Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani; the prime minister's adviser, Malik Mohammad Qasim; and an ANP leader and member of the National Assembly, Ghulam Ahmad Bilour.

Talking to newsmen, Begum Nasim Wali Khan said her party will cooperate with the PPP at the federal level and will not participate in any attempt to bring down the government of Aftab Ahmad Sherpao in the NWFP. She said during the talks, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto responded positively to certain complaints of the ANP leadership regarding cooperation between the two parties.

Begum Nasim Wali Khan said her party will not revoke its alliance with the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA]. She, nevertheless, clarified that the alliance was not for the purpose of forming the government with the IDA in the NWFP.

The ANP leader said the ANP will maintain its cooperation with the PPP at the federal level. Answering a question, she said the appointment of a new governor in the NWFP did not figure at the talks.

The NWFP chief minister, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, described the talks with ANP leaders as satisfactory and expressed the hope that the two parties will continue to cooperate with each other. He said his government faces no danger, as he enjoys the support of 51 members in the provincial assembly.

The law minister, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, told newsmen that the ANP will cooperate with the PPP at the federal level. The two sides exchanged views on various political and economic problems facing the country, he added.

The prime minister's adviser, Malik Mohammad Qasim, told newsmen that the PPP and the ANP have expressed their willingness to continue their cooperation at the federal level. He expressed the confidence that the ANP and the PPP will maintain close cooperation at the federal as well as provincial levels.

In a statement, the ANP leader, Abdul Wali Khan, said that the alliance with the IDA or other independent members in the NWFP Assembly is strictly confined to the conduct of the party within the provincial legislature. This alliance does not extend to any other province or the Center and it has nothing to do with ANP's internal and foreign policies.

Commenting on the ANP-PPP talks, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, the parliamentary party leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, told newsmen that the IDA will try to remove the present NWFP government in a democratic way.

Sri Lanka

Indian Envoy, Premadasa Discuss Security

BK1306163689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the security forces have been placed on full alert in view of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] agitation against the Indian community. The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr Mehrotra, has called on President Premadasa who assured the envoy of security for the Indian business interest. Mr Mehrotra also met with the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne.

Meanwhile, about 50 diplomats and staff of the Indian mission have moved into hotels. A spokesperson of the Indian High Commission said the step had been taken as a precautionary measure. However, the high commissioner, Mr Mehrotra, would continue to stay at his official residence.

Elsewhere on the island, JVP extremists shot dead six Home Guards in a tea estate in the central Bandarawela area last night.

Security Increased Following JVP Boycott Call

BK1406131189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has stepped up security measures following the call given by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] for boycotting Indian goods from today.

Reports say that vigorous police patrolling continued throughout the day today. AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports from Trincomalee: The call for agitation did not evoke any response in the district.

However, a REUTER report from Colombo says the streets look deserted and several shops remained closed in the capital for fear of violence.

Meanwhile, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] leader, Mr Padmanava, has warned of serious consequences if the JVP indulges in violence in the island. In a statement in Trincomalee, he appealed to the people to shun any attempt which hampers peace and integrity of the country.

'Little Impact' From Boycott

BK1406164489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security has been stepped up in view of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—Peoples' Liberation Front] deadline for boycott of Indian goods and services. Vigorous police patrolling continued throughout the day today. The Sri Lankan Government has also placed the Armed Forces on alert.

In the capital, Colombo, there was very little impact of the JVP call. Private buses were plying as usual. A few shops and business establishments, however, remained closed.

The JVP had earlier distributed posters and leaflets which called for a continued boycott of Indian business interests after today's deadline. Some Indian nationals have already moved to safer places.

The call did not evoke any response in the northern Tricomalee District. Schools, banks, shops and government offices remained open in all places, including Sinhalese areas.

Meanwhile, an alliance of four Sri Lankan left parties has expressed alarm over the attempts to launch an anti-Indian campaign and whip up communal passion against people of Indian origin.

7 Indian Soldiers Killed in LTTE Ambush

BK1506080889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] India has offered all assistance to Sri Lanka to build its infrastructure for small industry. The offer was conveyed by the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, to the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, when he met him in Colombo yesterday. Among others present were the Sri Lankan rural industries minister, Mr S. Thondaman, and the chairman of the national small industries corporation of India, Mr Juneja.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Juneja said the Indian offer includes consultancy, feasibility study, training and technological transfer, and small industries field.

Meanwhile, seven PKF [Peacekeeping Force] personnel were killed in an ambush by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] yesterday. A spokesman of the Indian High Commission said in Colombo that the incident took place in the Kilinochchi area. One LTTE member was also killed. Further details are awaited.

Committee Regrets Call For Indian Troop Pullout

BK1506031889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Batticaloa Citizens Committee has said president Premadasa's statement for withdrawal of PKF [Peacekeeping Force] has shocked the people in the district. In a statement, the committee said Tamil-speaking people were promised that there would be proper devolution of powers to the provincial government, including the maintenance of law and order. The peaceful situation in the region will be disrupted if the PKF returned before fulfilling this promise, the statement added.

Flood, Landslide Damage, Assistance Reported
BK1406114389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpt] About 100,000 houses have been damaged by floods, landslides, and winds. Most of these houses belong to the very poor families. Minister of Housing and Construction Sirisena Cooray has made an appeal to all foreign countries, diplomatic missions, and international agencies for generous contributions from their countries to this worthy cause of reconstructing the devastated homes.

The minister of local welfare is receiving assistance from local as well as foreign agencies for flood victims. Another consignment of goods was handed over to the Minister of State for Social Welfare, Samantha Karnaratne, at the Department of Social Services yesterday. The contribution made by Japan to Sri Lanka is worth over 5 million rupees. [passage omitted]